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[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.12 and A/72/L.12/Add.1)*]

72/72. Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its annual resolutions on sustainable fisheries, including resolution 71/123 of 7 December 2016, and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Convention),[1] and bearing in mind the relationship between the Convention and the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (the Agreement),[2]

Welcoming ratifications of and accessions to the Agreement and the fact that a growing number of States, entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (b), of the Agreement, and subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, have taken measures, as appropriate, towards the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement, in order to improve their management regimes,

Welcoming also the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Committee on Fisheries, and recognizing in particular the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (the Code) and other related instruments, including the international plans of action, which set out principles and global standards of behaviour for

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.
[2] Ibid., vol. 2167, No. 37924.

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responsible practices for conservation of fisheries resources and the management and development of fisheries, as well as the 2005 Rome Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing,

Recognizing the importance of data collection through accurate and reliable reporting and monitoring of catches, including by-catch and discards, as a fundamental element of effective fisheries management that provides a basis for scientific stock assessment, and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management,

Noting with concern that effective management of marine capture fisheries has been made difficult in some areas by unreliable and incomplete information and data caused by, inter alia, unreported and misreported fish catch and fishing effort and that this lack of accurate data contributes to overfishing in some areas, and in this regard recalling that members of regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements must fully comply with their associated data collection and reporting obligations, including to ensure that required data submissions are complete, reliable and submitted in a timely manner,

Recognizing the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment (first World Ocean Assessment), which provides information on the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects, in relation to, inter alia, fisheries,

Recognizing also the significant contribution of sustainable fisheries to food security and nutrition, income, wealth and poverty alleviation for present and future generations,

Welcoming in this regard the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want", as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012,

Welcoming the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post 2015 development agenda, held from 25 to 27 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, and in this regard reaffirming the commitment to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, as reflected in Goal 14 of the outcome document,

Recalling its resolution 71/312 of 6 July 2017, in which it endorsed the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action" adopted by the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held at United Nations Headquarters from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day on 8 June, and in this regard affirming the important role of the declaration in demonstrating the collective will to take action to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,

Recognizing the important contributions of the partnership dialogues and voluntary commitments made in the context of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 to the effective and timely implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14,

Welcoming in this regard the continuous attention given by the international community to the role of fish and fish products in nutrition and food security, including by the Committee on World Food Security of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, especially noting the importance of the availability of highly nutritious food for low-income populations,

Recalling the decision in its resolution 71/124 of 7 December 2016 to designate 2 May as World Tuna Day,

Recalling also that, in "The future we want", States were encouraged to give due consideration to implementing the Committee on World Food Security Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security,

Noting that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has developed a global work programme on advancing knowledge on rights-based approaches for fisheries to improve governance of fisheries, and will organize the meeting entitled "Tenure and Fishing Rights 2018: Achieving Sustainable Development Goals by 2030", to be held from 10 to 14 September 2018,

Recalling the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication,

Recognizing the urgent need for action at all levels, relying on scientific advice, to ensure the long-term sustainable use and management of fisheries resources through the wide application of the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches,

Expressing concern over the current and projected adverse effects of climate change on food security and the sustainability of fisheries, and noting in that regard the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling the entry into force of the Paris Agreement,[3] and noting that it aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, including by increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience,

Noting that the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea focused its discussions at its eighteenth meeting, held from 15 to 19 May 2017, on the effects of climate change on oceans,[4]

Reaffirming its commitment to ensuring that conservation and management measures adopted by regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements are based on the best available scientific information,

Taking note of the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations entitled *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2016*, and expressing concern that 31.4 per cent of assessed marine fish stocks are estimated to be fished at a biologically unsustainable level and therefore overfished,

Expressing its support for accelerating work to complete the ongoing negotiations in the World Trade Organization to strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector, including through the prohibition of certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing,

Noting that the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization will be held in Buenos Aires from 10 to 13 December 2017,

Concerned that only a limited number of States have taken measures to implement, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

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[3] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

[4] See A/72/95.

Recalling the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Particularly concerned that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing continues to constitute a serious threat to fish stocks and marine habitats and ecosystems, to the detriment of sustainable fisheries as well as the food security and the economies of many States, particularly developing States,

Concerned that some operators increasingly take advantage of the globalization of fishery markets to trade fishery products stemming from illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and make economic profits from those operations, which constitutes an incentive for them to pursue their activities,

Recognizing that effective deterrence and combating of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing has significant financial and other resource implications for all States, in particular developing States,

Recognizing also that fishing by vessels without nationality on the high seas undermines relevant objectives of the Convention and the Agreement to conserve and sustainably manage marine resources, and noting with concern that fishing vessels without nationality operate on the high seas without governance and oversight,

Recognizing further the role of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels in the concerted fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing,

Recognizing the duty provided in the Convention, the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (the Compliance Agreement),[5] the Agreement and the Code for flag States to effectively exercise jurisdiction and control over fishing vessels flying their flag, and vessels flying their flag which provide support to fishing vessels, to ensure that the activities of such fishing and support vessels do not undermine the effectiveness of conservation and management measures taken in accordance with international law and adopted at the national, subregional, regional or global levels,

Noting the advisory opinion of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on the request for an advisory opinion submitted by the Subregional Fisheries Commission, issued on 2 April 2015,

Recognizing the importance of adequately regulating, monitoring and controlling trans-shipment at sea to contribute to combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities,

Noting the obligation of all States, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the relevant provisions of the Convention, to cooperate in the conservation and management of living marine resources, and recognizing the importance of coordination and cooperation at the global, regional, subregional and national levels in the areas, inter alia, of marine scientific research, data collection, information-sharing, capacity-building and training for the conservation, management and sustainable development of living marine resources,

Acknowledging the importance of ocean data buoy systems moored in areas beyond national jurisdiction to sustainable development, promoting safety at sea and limiting human vulnerability to natural disasters, due to their use in weather and marine forecasts, fisheries management, tsunami forecasts and climate prediction, and expressing concern that most damage to ocean data buoys, such as moored buoys and

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2221, No. 39486.

tsunameters, frequently results from actions taken by some fishing operations which render the buoys inoperable,

Welcoming in this regard the adoption of measures by States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to protect ocean data buoy systems from the impacts of fishing activities,

Encouraging States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to cooperate to ensure that interactions between fishing operations and ocean data buoys on the high seas are minimized,

Recognizing the need for States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to continue to develop and implement, consistent with international law, effective port State measures to combat overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, the critical need for cooperation with developing States to build their capacity, and the importance of cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Maritime Organization in this regard,

Recalling the entry into force of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations[6] in 2016,

Recognizing the efforts of States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to implement its resolution 46/215 of 20 December 1991, in which the General Assembly called for a global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, including collaborative fisheries enforcement activities,

Concerned that marine pollution from all sources constitutes a serious threat to human health and safety, endangers fish stocks, marine biodiversity and marine and coastal habitats and has significant costs to local and national economies,

Recognizing that marine debris is a global transboundary pollution problem and that, owing to the many different types and sources of marine debris, different approaches to its prevention and removal are necessary, including identification of such sources and environmentally sound techniques for its removal,

Recognizing also that the majority of marine debris, including plastics and microplastics, entering the seas and oceans is considered to originate from land-based sources,

Recognizing further that abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, including ghost fishing gear, is an increasingly pervasive and destructive form of marine debris causing adverse impacts on fish stocks, marine life and the marine environment and that urgent preventative action is needed, such as marking of fishing gear as proposed by the Committee on Fisheries, as well as removal action,

Reaffirming the importance of sustainable aquaculture to food security, recognizing that aquaculture is already making a significant contribution to the global seafood supply and that a further increase in that contribution is anticipated,

Noting that the contribution of sustainable aquaculture to global fish supplies continues to respond to opportunities in developing countries to enhance local food security and nutrition and poverty alleviation and, together with the efforts of other aquaculture-producing countries, will make a significant contribution to meeting future demands in fish consumption, bearing in mind article 9 of the Code,

[6] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2009/REP and Corr 1–3, appendix E.

Noting in this regard the concern about the potential effects of genetically engineered aquatic fish species on the health and sustainability of wild fish stocks,

Recognizing the efforts made by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in regulating deep-sea fisheries, while still concerned that some deep-sea fishing activities in certain areas are being carried out without full implementation of relevant paragraphs of previous resolutions, representing a threat to vulnerable marine ecosystems,

Calling attention to the particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States, other developing coastal States and subsistence fishing communities whose livelihoods, economic development and food security are heavily dependent on sustainable fisheries and will suffer disproportionately if sustainable fisheries are negatively affected,

Calling attention also to the circumstances affecting fisheries in many developing States, in particular African States and small island developing States, and recognizing the urgent need for capacity-building, including the transfer of marine technology and in particular fisheries- and aquaculture-related technology, to enhance the ability of such States to exercise their rights in order to realize the benefits from fisheries resources and fulfil their obligations under international instruments,

Recognizing the need to adopt, implement and enforce appropriate measures to minimize waste, by-catch and discards, including high-grading, loss of fishing gear and other factors that adversely affect the sustainability of fish stocks and ecosystems and, consequently, can also have harmful effects on the economies and food security of small island developing States, other developing coastal States and subsistence fishing communities,

Recognizing also the need to adopt and implement appropriate measures, consistent with the best available scientific information, to minimize by-catch of non-targeted species and juveniles through the effective management of fishing methods, including the use and design of fish aggregating devices, in order to mitigate adverse effects on fish stocks and ecosystems,

Recognizing further the need to further integrate ecosystem approaches into fisheries conservation and management and, more generally, the importance of applying ecosystem approaches to the management of human activities in the ocean, and noting in this regard the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem,[7] the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations related to guidelines for the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and the importance of this approach to relevant provisions of the Agreement and the Code, as well as decision VII/11[8] and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recognizing the economic and cultural importance of sharks in many countries, the biological importance of sharks in the marine ecosystem as key predatory species, the vulnerability of certain shark species to overexploitation, the fact that some are threatened with extinction, the need for measures to promote the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of shark populations and fisheries, and the relevance of the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1999, in providing guidance on the development of such measures,

[7] E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/3, annex.

[8] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/7/21, annex.

Welcoming in this regard the review by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, and its ongoing work in this regard,

Noting with concern that basic data on shark stocks and harvests continue to be lacking and that not all regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements have adopted conservation and management measures for directed shark fisheries and for the regulation of by-catch of sharks from other fisheries,

Welcoming science-based measures taken by States to conserve and sustainably manage sharks, and noting in this respect management measures taken by coastal States, including limits on catch or fishing effort, technical measures, including by-catch reduction measures, sanctuaries, closed seasons and areas and monitoring, control and surveillance,

Recalling the decisions on sharks and rays adopted at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 24 September to 5 October 2016, inter alia, the inclusion of additional species of sharks and rays in appendix II to that Convention,[9] and recalling also the ongoing work of the secretariat of that Convention, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on capacity-building in this regard,

Noting that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, at its twelfth session, held in Manila from 23 to 28 October 2017, added 5 new species of sharks and rays to those listed in the appendices to that Convention,[10] bringing the number to 34 species,

Noting with concern the continuing practice of the removal of fins from sharks, with the remainder of the carcass being discarded at sea,

Recognizing the importance of marine species occupying low trophic levels in the ecosystem and for food security, and the need to ensure their long-term sustainability,

Expressing concern over continued incidental mortality, in fishing operations, of seabirds, particularly albatrosses and petrels, as well as other marine species, including sharks, fin-fish species, marine mammals and marine turtles, while recognizing considerable efforts by States and through various regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to reduce incidental mortality as a result of by-catch,

Noting with concern the significant threat that invasive alien species, such as those carried and transferred by ballast water and by biofouling on ships, pose to marine ecosystems and resources,

I
Achieving sustainable fisheries

1. *Reaffirms* the importance it attaches to the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas and the obligations of States to cooperate to this end, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the relevant provisions of the Convention,[1] in particular the provisions on cooperation set out in Part V and Part VII, section 2, of the Convention, and where applicable, the Agreement;[2]

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 993, No. 14537.
[10] Ibid., vol. 1651, No. 28395.

2. *Calls upon* all States that have not done so, in order to achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Convention, which sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out, taking into account the relationship between the Convention and the Agreement;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in "The future we want",[11] States addressed the sustainable development of fisheries, recognized the significant contribution of fisheries to the three dimensions of sustainable development and stressed the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for food security and nutrition and in providing for the livelihoods of millions of people, and encourages States to implement the commitments made in "The future we want";

4. *Calls upon* States to implement the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1, including Goal 14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and recalls that the Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible;

5. *Reiterates*, in this regard, the call for action to be taken on an urgent basis to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development made in the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action";[12]

6. *Encourages* States to give due priority to the implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)[13] in relation to achieving sustainable fisheries, especially restoring depleted stocks to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield on an urgent basis and, where possible, not later than 2015, and recalls that, in "The future we want", States committed themselves to intensify their efforts to meet that target and to urgently take the measures necessary to maintain or restore all stocks at least to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield, with the aim of achieving those goals in the shortest time feasible, as determined by their biological characteristics, and in order to achieve this, to urgently develop and implement science-based management plans, including by reducing or suspending fishing catch and fishing effort commensurate with the status of the stock, consistent with international law, the applicable international instruments and relevant General Assembly resolutions and guidelines of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

7. *Also encourages* States to promote the consumption of fish sourced from sustainably managed fisheries;

8. *Further encourages* States to consider sustainable aquaculture, consistent with the Code, as a means to promote diversification of the food supply and of income, while ensuring that aquaculture is conducted responsibly and adverse impacts on the environment are minimized;

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[11] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[12] Resolution 71/312, annex.

[13] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

9. *Emphasizes* the need for the full implementation of the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway";[14]

10. *Urges* States, either directly or through appropriate subregional, regional or global organizations or arrangements, to intensify efforts to assess and address, as appropriate, the impacts of global climate change and ocean acidification on the sustainability of fish stocks and the habitats that support them, in particular the most affected ones;

11. *Emphasizes* the obligations of flag States to discharge their responsibilities, in accordance with the Convention and the Agreement, to ensure compliance by vessels flying their flag with the conservation and management measures adopted and in force with respect to fisheries resources on the high seas;

12. *Calls upon* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as appropriate, to assess the risks and potential adverse impacts of climate change with respect to fish stocks, consider them when establishing conservation and management measures and identifying options to reduce risks and adverse impacts with respect to fisheries management and the health and resilience of marine ecosystems and enhance efforts to cooperate to collect, exchange and publish scientific and technical data and best practices related to the development and implementation of adaptation strategies, and to assist developing States in this regard, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change;

13. *Calls upon* all States, directly or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to apply widely, in accordance with international law and the Code, the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches to the conservation, management and exploitation of fish stocks, and also calls upon States parties to the Agreement to implement fully the provisions of article 6 of the Agreement as a matter of priority;

14. *Urges* States to increase their reliance on scientific advice in developing, adopting and implementing conservation and management measures, and to increase their efforts, including through international cooperation, to promote science for conservation and management measures that apply, in accordance with international law, the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management, enhancing understanding of ecosystem approaches, in order to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources, and in this regard encourages the implementation of the Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as a framework for the improvement and understanding of fishery status and trends;

15. *Calls upon* all States, directly or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to apply stock-specific target and limit precautionary reference points, which for target reference points are intended to meet management objectives, as described in annex II to the Agreement and in the Code, to ensure that populations of harvested stocks and, where necessary, associated or dependent species, are maintained at or restored to sustainable levels, and to use these reference points for triggering conservation and management action;

16. *Encourages* States, directly or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to establish and implement rebuilding and recovery strategies and plans where a stock is identified as being overfished, which should

[14] Resolution 69/15, annex.

include time frames and probabilities of recovery aimed at bringing the stock back at least to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield, and guided by scientific assessment and subjected to periodic evaluation of progress;

17. *Also encourages* States to apply the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches in adopting and implementing conservation and management measures addressing, inter alia, by-catch, pollution and overfishing, and protecting habitats of specific concern, taking into account existing guidelines developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

18. *Further encourages* States to enhance or develop observer programmes, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, in order to improve data collection on, inter alia, target and by-catch species, which could also assist monitoring, control and surveillance tools, and to take into account standards, forms of cooperation and other existing structures for such programmes as described in article 25 of the Agreement and article 5 of the Code;

19. *Calls upon in this regard* States, individually in line with their national legislation or through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, to take steps as appropriate to ensure the safety of observers;

20. *Encourages* States to implement, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, accurate, complete, reliable and effective data collection and reporting of required data on catches, including by-catch and discards, reviewing and validating the data, and providing catch information in support of scientific stock assessment and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management;

21. *Calls upon* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to collect and, where appropriate, report to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations required catch and effort data, and fishery-related information, in a complete, accurate and timely way, including for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks within and beyond areas under national jurisdiction, discrete high seas fish stocks, and by-catch and discards; and, where they do not exist, to establish processes to strengthen data collection and reporting by members of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, including through regular reviews of member compliance with such obligations, and, when such obligations are not met, require the member concerned to rectify the problem, including through the preparation of plans of action with timelines;

22. *Invites* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to cooperate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the implementation and further development of the Fisheries Resources Monitoring System initiative;

23. *Reaffirms* paragraph 10 of its resolution 61/105 of 8 December 2006, and calls upon States, including through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, to urgently adopt and implement measures to fully implement the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks for directed and non-directed shark fisheries, based on the best available scientific information, through, inter alia, limits on catch or fishing effort, by requiring that vessels flying their flag collect and regularly report data on shark catches, including species-specific data, discards and landings, undertaking, including through international cooperation, comprehensive stock assessments of sharks, reducing shark by-catch and by-catch mortality and, where scientific information is uncertain or inadequate, not increasing fishing effort in directed shark fisheries and urgently establishing science-based management measures to ensure the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of shark stocks and to prevent further

declines of vulnerable or threatened shark stocks, and encourages the full utilization of dead sharks caught in the context of sustainably managed fisheries;

24. *Calls upon* States to take immediate and concerted action to improve the implementation of and compliance with existing regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements and national measures that regulate shark fisheries and incidental catch of sharks, in particular those measures which prohibit or restrict fisheries conducted solely for the purpose of harvesting shark fins and, where necessary, to consider taking other measures, as appropriate, such as requiring that all sharks be landed with each fin naturally attached;

25. *Calls upon* regional fisheries management organizations with the competence to regulate highly migratory species to strengthen or establish precautionary, science-based conservation and management measures, as appropriate, for sharks taken in fisheries within their convention areas consistent with the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks;

26. *Encourages* range States and regional economic integration organizations that have not yet done so to become signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals,[10] and invites non-range States, intergovernmental organizations and international and national non-governmental organizations or other relevant bodies and entities to consider becoming cooperating partners;

27. *Encourages* States, as appropriate, to cooperate in establishing non detriment findings for shared stocks of marine species listed in appendices I and II to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,[9] consistent with the concepts and non-binding guiding principles contained in resolution Conf. 16.7 on non-detriment findings, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora;

28. *Urges* States to eliminate barriers to trade in fish and fisheries products which are not consistent with their rights and obligations under the World Trade Organization agreements, taking into account the importance of the trade in fish and fisheries products, particularly for developing countries;

29. *Recalls* that, in "The future we want", States committed themselves to observing the need to ensure access to fisheries and the importance of access to markets by subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisherfolk and women fish workers, as well as indigenous peoples and their communities, particularly in developing countries, especially small island developing States;

30. *Takes note* of resolution 6/2017, entitled "International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture", adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its fortieth session, held in Rome from 3 to 8 July 2017;[15]

31. *Proclaims* the year beginning on 1 January 2022 the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to serve as lead agency for the International Year, in collaboration with other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and stresses that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present paragraph, above and beyond activities currently

[15] See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2017/REP, appendix G.

within the mandate of the implementing agency, should be met from voluntary contributions;

32. *Urges* States and relevant international and national organizations to provide for the participation of small-scale fishery stakeholders in related policy development and fisheries management strategies in order to achieve long-term sustainability for such fisheries, consistent with the duty to ensure the proper conservation and management of fisheries resources, and encourages States to consider promoting, as appropriate, participatory management schemes for small-scale fisheries in accordance with national laws, regulations and practices, as well as the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

33. *Welcomes* action taken by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and a number of regional organizations to support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication through regional plans of action, dedicated working groups and other initiatives;

34. *Encourages* States, either directly or through competent and appropriate subregional, regional or global organizations and arrangements, to analyse, as appropriate, the impact of fishing for marine species corresponding to low trophic levels;

35. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the initiation of further studies by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of the impact of industrial fishing activities on species corresponding to low trophic levels;

36. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to consider the potential effects of genetically engineered fish species on the health and sustainability of wild fish stocks and on the biodiversity of the aquatic environment and to provide guidance, consistent with the Code, on minimizing harmful impacts in this regard;

37. *Also invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in consultation with other relevant international organizations, including the International Maritime Organization, to promote awareness and cooperation to develop and strengthen capacity to prevent, minimize and mitigate the adverse impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity, including fish stocks;

II
Implementation of the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

38. *Welcomes* the most recent accessions to the Agreement, and calls upon all States, and entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (b), of the Agreement, that have not done so to ratify or accede to the Agreement and in the interim to consider applying it provisionally;

39. *Calls upon* States parties to the Agreement to effectively implement, as a matter of priority, the provisions of the Agreement through their national legislation and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in which they participate;

40. *Emphasizes* the importance of those provisions of the Agreement relating to bilateral, subregional and regional cooperation in enforcement, and urges continued efforts in this regard;

41. *Urges* States parties to the Agreement, in accordance with article 21, paragraph 4, thereof, to inform, either directly or through the relevant subregional or regional fisheries management organization or arrangement, all States whose vessels fish on the high seas in the same subregion or region of the form of identification issued by those States parties to officials duly authorized to carry out boarding and inspection functions in accordance with articles 21 and 22 of the Agreement;

42. *Also urges* States parties to the Agreement, in accordance with article 21, paragraph 4, thereof, to designate an appropriate authority to receive notifications pursuant to article 21 and to give due publicity to such designation through the relevant subregional or regional fisheries management organization or arrangement;

43. *Invites* regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements which have not yet done so to adopt procedures for high seas boarding and inspection that are consistent with articles 21 and 22 of the Agreement, including, inter alia, those to ensure the safety of the crew and the inspectors;

44. *Calls upon* States, individually and, as appropriate, through subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with competence over discrete high seas fish stocks, to adopt the measures necessary to ensure the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of such stocks in accordance with the Convention and consistent with the Code and the general principles set forth in the Agreement;

45. *Invites* States to assist developing States in enhancing their participation in regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, including by facilitating access to fisheries for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, in accordance with article 25, paragraph 1 (b), of the Agreement, taking into account the need to ensure that such access benefits the developing States concerned and their nationals;

46. *Urges* States parties to the Agreement, directly or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to take into account the special requirements of developing States, including small island developing States as highlighted in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, in giving effect to the duty to cooperate in the establishment of conservation and management measures for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, including the need to ensure, where appropriate, in accordance with article 24, paragraph 2 (c), of the Agreement, that such measures do not transfer a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States, and notes in this regard ongoing efforts to better develop a common understanding of this concept;

47. *Calls upon* States and international financial institutions and organizations of the United Nations system to provide assistance according to Part VII of the Agreement, including, if appropriate, the development of special financial mechanisms or instruments to assist developing States, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing States, to enable them to develop their national capacity to exploit fishery resources, including developing their domestically flagged fishing fleet, value-added processing and the expansion of their economic base in the fishing industry, consistent with the duty to ensure the proper conservation and management of fisheries resources;

48. *Urges* States, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, national institutions and non-governmental organizations, as well as

natural and juridical persons, to make voluntary financial contributions to the Assistance Fund established under Part VII of the Agreement;

49. *Encourages* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat (the Division) to continue their efforts to publicize the availability of assistance through the Assistance Fund;

50. *Encourages* accelerated progress by States, individually and, as appropriate, through subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, regarding the recommendations of the Review Conference on the Agreement, held in New York from 22 to 26 May 2006,[16] and the identification of emerging priorities;

51. *Encourages* States, individually and, as appropriate, through subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to consider implementing, as appropriate, the recommendations of the resumed Review Conference held in New York from 24 to 28 May 2010[17] and from 23 to 27 May 2016;[18]

52. *Recalls* that the resumed Review Conference agreed to keep the Agreement under review through the resumption of the Review Conference at a date not earlier than 2020, to be agreed at a future round of informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement;

53. *Acknowledges*, in particular, the commitments made at the resumed Review Conference held in 2016 to the continued implementation of the Agreement through the application of the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management, the urgent improvement of the status of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, strengthened interaction of the science-policy interface and the strong emphasis on collaboration, at all levels, for improved global fisheries outcomes;

54. *Recalls* paragraph 6 of resolution 56/13 of 28 November 2001 and the recommendation of the resumed Review Conference in 2016 that the informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement be dedicated, on an annual basis, to the consideration of specific issues arising from the implementation of the Agreement, with a view to improving understanding, sharing experiences and identifying best practices for the consideration of States parties, as well as the General Assembly and the Review Conference;

55. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in this regard, to convene the thirteenth round of informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement for two days in May 2018 to focus on the topic "Science-policy interface", and also requests the Secretary-General to convene the fourteenth round of informal consultations of States parties in 2019 to focus on the topic "Performance reviews of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements";

56. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to invite States parties to the Agreement and, as observers, States and entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (b), of the Agreement not parties to the Agreement, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations, bodies, funds and programmes within the United Nations system, the secretariats of relevant organizations and conventions and other relevant intergovernmental organizations and bodies, in particular subregional and regional fisheries management

[16] See A/CONF.210/2006/15, annex.
[17] See A/CONF.210/2010/7, annex.
[18] See A/CONF.210/2016/5, annex.

organizations and arrangements and related regional intergovernmental marine science organizations, and relevant non-governmental organizations, in accordance with past practice, to attend the thirteenth round of informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement, while relevant scientific institutions may request an invitation to participate in the consultations as observers;

57. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to invite States parties to the Agreement, as well as States and entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (b), of the Agreement not parties to the Agreement and others invited to participate in the consultations as observers pursuant to paragraph 56 of the present resolution, to submit their views on the science-policy interface topic, together with a translation into English, to the Division, and requests the Division to post such views, unedited and in the languages in which they are received, on its website;

58. *Invites* the chairperson of the informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement to circulate widely, through the Secretariat, an informal summary of the discussions at the thirteenth round;

59. *Reaffirms its request* that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations initiate arrangements with States for the collection and dissemination of data on fishing in the high seas by vessels flying their flag at the subregional and regional levels where no such arrangements exist;

60. *Also reaffirms its request* that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations revise its global fisheries statistics database to provide information on straddling fish stocks, highly migratory fish stocks and discrete high seas fish stocks on the basis of where the catch is taken;

III
Related fisheries instruments

61. *Emphasizes* the importance of the effective implementation of the provisions of the Compliance Agreement,[9] and urges continued efforts in this regard;

62. *Calls upon* all States and other entities referred to in article X, paragraph 1, of the Compliance Agreement that have not yet become parties to that Agreement to do so as a matter of priority and, in the interim, to consider applying it provisionally;

63. *Urges* States and subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to implement and promote the application of the Code within their areas of competence;

64. *Urges* States to develop and implement, as a matter of priority, national and, as appropriate, regional plans of action to put into effect the international plans of action of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

65. *Encourages* States, in this regard, to maintain their commitment in reporting on their implementation of the Code, reiterates the importance of responding to the web-based questionnaire of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for monitoring the implementation of the Code and the international plans of action and strategies, and notes that the information collected could also be relevant to the implementation of related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[10]

66. *Notes* the publication by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of Technical Guidelines for Fishing Operations: best practices to improve safety at sea in the fisheries sector;

[10] Resolution 70/1.

67. *Encourages* States to consider signing, ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977;

IV
Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

68. *Emphasizes once again its serious concern* that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing remains one of the greatest threats to fish stocks and marine ecosystems and continues to have serious and major implications for the conservation and management of ocean resources, as well as the food security and the economies of many States, particularly developing States, and renews its call upon States to comply fully with all existing obligations and to combat such fishing and urgently to take all steps necessary to implement the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;

69. *Takes note* of resolution 9/2017, entitled "Observance of the International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing", adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its fortieth session;[20]

70. *Proclaims* 5 June the International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, to draw attention to the threats posed by illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities to the sustainable use of fisheries resources as well as to ongoing efforts to fight these activities, invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to serve as lead agency for the International Day, in collaboration with other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and stresses that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present paragraph above and beyond activities currently within the mandate of the implementing agency should be met from voluntary contributions;

71. *Recalls* that, in "The future we want", States acknowledged that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing deprive many countries of a crucial natural resource and remain a persistent threat to their sustainable development and recommitted to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing as advanced in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and to prevent and combat those practices, including by developing and implementing national and regional action plans in accordance with the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, implementing, in accordance with international law, effective and coordinated measures by coastal States, flag States, port States, chartering nations and the States of nationality of the beneficial owners and others who support or engage in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by identifying vessels engaged in such fishing and by depriving offenders of the benefits accruing from it, as well as by cooperating with developing countries to systematically identify needs and build capacity, including support for monitoring, control, surveillance, compliance and enforcement systems;

72. *Notes with satisfaction* the development of an increasing number of national plans of action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider developing such plans;

73. *Urges* flag States to strengthen effective jurisdiction and control over vessels flying their flag, and to exercise due diligence, including by developing or

[20] See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C/2017/REP, appendix J.

amending national rules and regulations, where needed, in order to ensure that such vessels do not engage in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, while reaffirming the importance, under international law, including as reflected in the Convention, of the responsibilities of flag States regarding fishing vessels flying their flag, including with respect to safety at sea and labour conditions on fishing vessels;

74. *Urges* States to effectively exercise jurisdiction and control over their nationals, including beneficial owners, and vessels flying their flag, in order to prevent and deter them from engaging in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities or supporting vessels engaging in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, including those vessels listed by regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements as engaged in those activities, and to facilitate mutual assistance to ensure that such actions can be investigated and proper sanctions imposed;

75. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to establish penalties for non-compliance by vessels involved in fishing or fishing-related activities and their nationals, as appropriate, in accordance with applicable national law and consistent with international law, that are adequate in severity for effectively securing compliance, deterring further violations and depriving offenders of the benefits from their illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities;

76. *Urges* States to take effective measures, at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, to deter the activities, including illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, of any vessel which undermines conservation and management measures that have been adopted by subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in accordance with international law;

77. *Calls upon* States not to permit vessels flying their flag to engage in fishing on the high seas or in areas under the national jurisdiction of other States, unless duly authorized by the authorities of the States concerned and in accordance with the conditions set out in the authorization, and to take specific measures, including deterring the reflagging of vessels by their nationals, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, the Agreement and the Compliance Agreement, to control fishing operations by vessels flying their flag;

78. *Urges* States, individually and collectively through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to develop appropriate processes to assess the performance of States with respect to implementing the obligations regarding fishing vessels flying their flag set out in relevant international instruments;

79. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen, where necessary, the international legal framework for intergovernmental cooperation, in particular at the subregional and regional levels, in the management of fish stocks and in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, in a manner consistent with international law, and for States and entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (b), of the Agreement to collaborate in efforts to address these types of fishing activities;

80. *Urges* regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to further coordinate measures for combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, such as through the development of a common list of vessels identified as engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing or the mutual recognition of the illegal, unreported and unregulated vessel lists established by each organization or arrangement;

81. *Reaffirms its call upon* States to take all necessary measures consistent with international law, without prejudice to a State's sovereignty over ports in its territory and to reasons of force majeure or distress, including the prohibition of vessels from accessing their ports followed by a report to the flag State concerned,

when there is clear evidence that they are or have been engaged in or have supported illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, or when they refuse to give information either on the origin of the catch or on the authorization under which the catch has been made;

82. *Reaffirms* paragraph 53 of its resolution 64/72 of 4 December 2009 with regard to eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by vessels flying "flags of convenience" and requiring that a "genuine link" be established between States and fishing vessels flying their flags, and urges States operating open registry to effectively control all fishing vessels flying their flag, as required by international law, or otherwise stop open registry for fishing vessels;

83. *Notes* the challenges posed by vessels determined under international law to be without nationality that are fishing on the high seas and that such vessels are engaging in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities as defined under the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and encourages States to take necessary measures where appropriate, consistent with international law, including enacting domestic legislation, in order to prevent and deter vessels without nationality from engaging in or supporting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

84. *Encourages* States, either directly or through competent and appropriate subregional, regional or global organizations and arrangements, to consider adopting rules, consistent with international law, to ensure that chartering arrangements and practices related to fishing vessels enable compliance with and enforcement of relevant conservation and management measures, so as not to undermine efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

85. *Recognizes* the need for enhanced port State measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and urges States to cooperate, in particular at the regional level and through subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to adopt all necessary port measures, consistent with international law taking into account article 23 of the Agreement, and to further promote the development and application of standards at the regional level;

86. *Welcomes* the recent accessions to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing,[6] and encourages States and regional economic integration organizations that have not yet done so to consider ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to that Agreement;

87. *Acknowledges*, in this regard, the convening of the first meeting of the parties to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, held in Oslo from 29 to 31 May 2017, which, inter alia, established an open-ended technical working group to provide guidance on elaborating information exchange mechanisms and other technical matters and established an ad hoc working group under Part 6 of the Agreement and approved its terms of reference;[21]

88. *Notes* the capacity development programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations aimed at facilitating and supporting the implementation of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and related instruments, which contributes to the development of national capacity of both parties and non-parties, including the strengthening of the institutional, operational and enforcement capacity of developing States with a view to maximizing the benefits of its implementation;

[21] See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document FIAP/R1211 (En).

89. *Also notes*, in this regard, the regional workshops convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on implementing the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;

90. *Encourages* strengthened collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Maritime Organization, taking into account the respective competencies, mandates and experience of the two organizations, to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, particularly in improving the implementation of flag State responsibilities and port State measures;

91. *Also encourages* States, with respect to vessels flying their flag, and port States, to make every effort to share data on landings and catch quotas, and in this regard encourages regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to consider developing open databases containing such data for the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of fisheries management;

92. *Calls upon* States to take all measures necessary to ensure that vessels flying their flag do not engage in trans-shipment of fish caught by fishing vessels engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, through adequate regulation, monitoring and control of trans-shipment of fish at sea, including through additional national measures applicable to vessels flying their flag to prevent such trans-shipment;

93. *Urges* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to adopt and implement internationally agreed market-related measures in accordance with international law, including principles, rights and obligations established in World Trade Organization agreements, as called for in the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;

94. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its fortieth session of the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes,[22] encourages work to increase awareness of the Guidelines, and encourages States and relevant stakeholders to implement the Guidelines when developing catch documentation schemes and to use them as a reference in related activities, with special attention to the prevention, deterrence and elimination of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

95. *Encourages* information-sharing regarding emerging market- and trade-related measures by States and other relevant actors with appropriate international forums, given the potential implications of these measures for all States, consistent with the established plan of work of the Committee on Fisheries, and taking into account the Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fish Trade of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

96. *Acknowledges* the development of participatory surveillance activities at sea involving fishing communities in West Africa as a cost-effective way of detecting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

97. *Notes* the concern expressed by the Committee on Fisheries at the proliferation of private standards and ecolabelling schemes potentially leading to the creation of trade barriers and restrictions, and also notes the work by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to develop an evaluation framework to assess the conformity of public and private ecolabelling schemes through the

[22] See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C/2017/REP, appendix C.

Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries;

98. *Also notes* the concerns about possible connections between transnational organized crime and illegal fishing in certain regions of the world, and encourages States, including through the appropriate international forums and organizations, to study the causes and methods of and contributing factors to illegal fishing to increase knowledge and understanding of those possible connections, and to make the findings publicly available, and in this regard takes note of the study issued by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on transnational organized crime in the fishing industry, bearing in mind the distinct legal regimes and remedies under international law applicable to illegal fishing and transnational organized crime;

V
Monitoring, control and surveillance and compliance and enforcement

99. *Calls upon* States, in accordance with international law, to strengthen implementation of or, where they do not exist, adopt comprehensive monitoring, control and surveillance measures and compliance and enforcement schemes individually and within those regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements in which they participate, in order to provide an appropriate framework for promoting compliance with agreed conservation and management measures, and further urges enhanced coordination among all relevant States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in these efforts;

100. *Welcomes* the fact that the Committee on Fisheries has urged its members to start implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance[23] as soon as possible, and urges all flag States to implement those Guidelines as soon as possible, including, as a first step, by carrying out a voluntary assessment;

101. *Encourages* further work by competent international organizations, including subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to develop guidelines on flag State control of fishing vessels;

102. *Urges* States, individually and through relevant regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to establish mandatory vessel monitoring, control and surveillance systems, in particular to require that vessel monitoring systems be carried by all vessels fishing on the high seas as soon as practicable, recalling that in paragraph 62 of resolution 63/112 of 5 December 2008 it urged that large-scale fishing vessels be required to carry vessel monitoring systems no later than December 2008, and to share information on fisheries enforcement matters;

103. *Calls upon* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, to strengthen or establish, consistent with national and international law, positive or negative lists of vessels fishing within the areas covered by relevant regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in order to promote compliance with conservation and management measures and to identify products from illegal, unreported and unregulated catches, and encourages improved coordination among all States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in sharing and using this information, taking into account the forms of cooperation with developing States as set out in article 25 of the Agreement;

104. *Encourages* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in cooperation with States, regional economic integration organizations, the

[23] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document COFI/2014/4.2/Rev.1, appendix II.

International Maritime Organization and, as appropriate, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to expedite efforts to develop and manage a comprehensive global record of fishing vessels, refrigerated transport vessels and supply vessels, including with a unique vessel identifier system, using, as a first step, the International Maritime Organization Ship Identification Number Scheme for fishing vessels of 100 gross tonnage and above, adopted by the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization in its resolution A.1078(28) of 4 December 2013;

105. *Welcomes* the continued development of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, including its efforts to keep it cost-effective, and encourages States, including through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to provide the necessary data to the Global Record;

106. *Also welcomes* the agreement that the International Maritime Organization ship identification number should be used as the unique vessel identifier for phase I of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels and the fact that several regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements have made provisions for the International Maritime Organization number to be compulsory in their convention areas for all eligible vessels, and encourages those regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements which have not yet done so to do the same;

107. *Requests* States and relevant international bodies to develop, in accordance with international law, more effective measures to trace fish and fishery products to enable importing States to identify fish or fishery products caught in a manner that undermines international conservation and management measures agreed in accordance with international law, taking into account the special requirements of developing States and the forms of cooperation with developing States as set out in article 25 of the Agreement, and at the same time to recognize the importance of market access, in accordance with provisions 11.2.4, 11.2.5 and 11.2.6 of the Code, for fish and fishery products caught in a manner that is in conformity with such international measures;

108. *Requests* States to take the necessary measures, consistent with international law, to help to prevent fish and fishery products caught in a manner that undermines applicable conservation and management measures adopted in accordance with international law from entering international trade;

109. *Encourages* States to establish and undertake cooperative surveillance and enforcement activities in accordance with international law to strengthen and enhance efforts to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures, and prevent and deter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

110. *Urges* States, directly and through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, to develop and adopt effective monitoring, control and surveillance measures for trans-shipment, as appropriate, in particular at-sea trans-shipment, in order to, inter alia, monitor compliance, to collect and verify fisheries data, and to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, in accordance with international law and, in parallel, to encourage and support the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in studying the current practices of trans-shipment and produce a set of guidelines for this purpose;

111. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the global trans-shipment study which the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is undertaking, encourages States to contribute to this work to ensure its completion as soon as possible, and also

encourages further work by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to consider developing guidelines on this issue;

112. *Expresses its appreciation* for financial contributions from States to improve the capacity of the existing voluntary International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network for Fisheries-related Activities, and encourages States to join and actively participate in the Network and to consider supporting, when appropriate, its transformation in accordance with international law into an international unit with dedicated resources to further assist Network members, taking into account the forms of cooperation with developing States as set out in article 25 of the Agreement;

VI
Fishing overcapacity

113. *Calls upon* States to commit themselves to urgently reducing the capacity of the world's fishing fleets to levels commensurate with the sustainability of fish stocks, through the establishment of target levels and plans or other appropriate mechanisms for ongoing capacity assessment, while avoiding the transfer of fishing capacity to other fisheries or areas in a manner that undermines the sustainable management of fish stocks, including those areas where fish stocks are overexploited or in a depleted condition, and recognizing in this context the legitimate rights of developing States to develop their fisheries for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks consistent with article 25 of the Agreement, article 5 of the Code and paragraph 10 of the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

114. *Calls upon*, in this regard, States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to develop and implement a range of measures to adjust fishing intensity, including fishing capacity where relevant, to levels commensurate with the sustainability of fish stocks, and including capacity assessment and capacity management plans providing incentives for voluntary reduction, which take into account all aspects that contribute to fishing capacity, considering, inter alia, engine power, fishing gear technology, fish detection technology and storage space, and also to improve transparency on fishing capacity, including by identifying, sharing and publicizing relevant information in this regard, subject to confidentiality requirements;

115. *Reiterates its call upon* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to ensure that the urgent actions required in the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity are undertaken expeditiously and that its implementation is facilitated without delay;

116. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to report on the state of progress in the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity, as provided for in paragraph 48 of the Plan of Action;

117. *Calls upon* States, individually and, as appropriate, through subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with competence to regulate highly migratory species, urgently to address global fishing capacity for tunas, inter alia, in a way that recognizes the legitimate rights of developing States, in particular small island developing States, to participate in and benefit from such fisheries, taking into account the recommendations of the 2010 Joint Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations International Workshop on RFMO Management of Tuna Fisheries, held in Brisbane, Australia, and the recommendations of the 2011 third joint meeting of tuna regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements;

118. *Encourages* those States which are cooperating to establish subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, taking into account the best scientific information available as well as ecosystem approaches and the precautionary approach, to exercise voluntary restraint of fishing effort levels in those areas that will come under the regulation of the future organizations and arrangements until adequate regional conservation and management measures are adopted and implemented, taking into account the need to ensure the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of the relevant fish stocks and to prevent significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems;

119. *Recalls* that, in "The future we want", States reaffirmed their commitment in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and overcapacity, taking into account the importance of that sector to developing countries, reiterated their commitment to conclude multilateral disciplines on fisheries subsidies that would give effect to the mandates of the World Trade Organization Doha Development Agenda[24] and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration to strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector, including through the prohibition of certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation, taking into account the importance of the sector to development priorities, poverty reduction and livelihood and food security concerns, and encouraged one another to further improve the transparency and reporting of existing fisheries subsidies programmes through the World Trade Organization and, given the state of fisheries resources, and without prejudicing the Doha and Hong Kong ministerial mandates on fisheries subsidies or the need to conclude those negotiations, to eliminate subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing and to refrain from introducing new such subsidies or from extending or enhancing existing ones;

120. *Urges* States to eliminate fisheries subsidies that contribute to overfishing and overcapacity and to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including through accelerating work to complete negotiations on fisheries subsidies at the World Trade Organization, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization negotiations on fisheries subsidies;

VII
Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing

121. *Expresses concern* that, despite the adoption of General Assembly resolution 46/215, the practice of large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing still exists and remains a threat to living marine resources;

122. *Urges* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to adopt effective measures, or strengthen existing measures, to implement and enforce the provisions of resolution 46/215 and subsequent resolutions on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing in order to eliminate the use of large-scale pelagic drift nets in all seas and oceans, which means that efforts to implement resolution 46/215 should not result in the transfer to other parts of the world of drift nets that contravene the resolution;

123. *Also urges* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to adopt effective measures, or strengthen existing measures, to implement and enforce the present global moratorium on the use of

[24] A/C.2/56/7, annex

large-scale pelagic drift nets on the high seas, and calls upon States to ensure that vessels flying their flag that are duly authorized to use large-scale drift nets in waters under their national jurisdiction do not use such gear for fishing while on the high seas;

VIII
Fisheries by-catch and discards

124. *Urges* States, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and other relevant international organizations that have not done so to take action, including with consideration of the interests of developing coastal States and, as appropriate, subsistence fishing communities, to minimize by-catch, as well as to reduce or eliminate catch by lost or abandoned gear, fish discards and post-harvest losses, including of juvenile fish, consistent with international law and relevant international instruments, including the Code, and in particular to consider measures including, as appropriate, technical measures related to fish size, mesh size or gear, discards, closed seasons and areas and zones reserved for selected fisheries, particularly artisanal fisheries, the establishment of mechanisms for communicating information on areas of high concentration of juvenile fish, taking into account the importance of ensuring the confidentiality of such information, and support for studies and research that will minimize by-catch of juvenile fish, and to ensure that these measures are implemented so as to optimize their effectiveness;

125. *Encourages in this regard* States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as appropriate, to ensure proper implementation and enforcement of the measures they have taken with regard to by-catch and discards;

126. *Welcomes* the commitment of States in "The future we want" to enhance action to manage by-catch, discards and other adverse ecosystem impacts from fisheries, including by eliminating destructive fishing practices, consistent with international law, the applicable international instruments and relevant General Assembly resolutions and guidelines of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

127. *Calls upon* States, either individually, collectively or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to further study, develop and adopt effective management measures, taking into account the best available scientific information on fishing methods, including fish aggregating devices, to minimize by-catch;

128. *Also calls upon* States, either individually, collectively or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to collect the necessary data in order to evaluate and closely monitor the use of large-scale fish aggregating devices and other devices, as appropriate, and their effects on tuna resources and tuna behaviour and associated and dependent species, to improve management procedures to monitor the number, type and use of such devices and to mitigate possible negative effects on the ecosystem, including on juveniles and the incidental by-catch of non-target species, particularly sharks and turtles, and notes in this regard the measures adopted by different regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements;

129. *Notes in this regard* that some regional fisheries management organizations, including the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, have established their own working groups to assess the use and impact of large-scale fish aggregating devices, and also notes in this regard the convening of the first meeting of the Joint Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations Fish Aggregating

Devices Working Group, held in Madrid from 19 to 21 April 2017 in the framework of the Kobe process, with the aim of promoting discussions and coordinated actions in key areas relating to the management of fish aggregating devices in tuna fisheries from an ocean-wide perspective;

130. *Encourages* States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to promote, as appropriate, the use of environmentally friendly fish aggregating devices while ensuring compliance with measures that they have taken relating to such devices;

131. *Urgently calls upon* States, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and, where appropriate, other relevant international organizations to develop and implement effective management measures to reduce the incidence of catch and discards of non-target species, including the utilization of selective fishing gear, where appropriate, and to take appropriate measures to minimize waste, and welcomes in this regard the support of the Committee on Fisheries for the development of a technical guideline of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations addressing the causes of and remedies to food losses and waste;

132. *Calls upon* States and subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to adopt or improve measures to assess the impact of their fisheries on species caught as by-catch and to improve the comprehensiveness and accuracy of information and reporting on incidental catch of species caught as by-catch, including through adequate observer coverage and the use of modern technologies, such as electronic monitoring, and to provide assistance to developing States to meet data-collection and reporting obligations;

133. *Requests* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as appropriate, to strengthen or establish data-collection programmes to obtain reliable species-specific estimates of shark, marine turtle, fin-fish, marine mammal and seabird by-catch, and to promote further research on selective fishing gear and practices and on the use of appropriate by-catch mitigation measures;

134. *Encourages* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to coordinate in the development and implementation of clear and standardized by-catch data-collection and reporting protocols for non-target species, in particular endangered, threatened and protected species, taking into account best-practice advice from appropriate international organizations and arrangements, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels;[25]

135. *Encourages* States and entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (b), of the Agreement to give due consideration to participation, as appropriate, in subregional and regional instruments and organizations with mandates to conserve non-target species taken incidentally in fishing operations;

136. *Encourages* States to strengthen, if necessary, the capacity of those subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in which they participate to ensure the adequate conservation of non-target species taken incidentally in fishing operations, taking into consideration best practices for non-target species management, and to expedite their ongoing efforts in this regard;

137. *Requests* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements urgently to implement, as appropriate, the measures recommended in the 2004 Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations and the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline

[25] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2258, No. 40228.

Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in order to prevent the decline of sea turtles and seabird populations by minimizing by-catch and increasing post-release survival in their fisheries, including through research and development of gear and bait alternatives, promoting the use of available by-catch mitigation technology, and establishing and strengthening data-collection programmes to obtain standardized information to develop reliable estimates of the by-catch of these species;

138. *Urges* States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to implement the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;[26]

139. *Requests* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to continue to take urgent action to reduce the by-catch of seabirds, including albatrosses and petrels, in fisheries by adopting and implementing conservation measures consistent with the 2009 best practices technical guidelines of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to support implementation of the International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries and taking into account the work of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels and of organizations, such as the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources;

IX
Subregional and regional cooperation

140. *Urges* coastal States and States fishing on the high seas, in accordance with the Convention, the Agreement and other relevant instruments, to pursue cooperation, in relation to straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, either directly or through appropriate subregional or regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, to ensure the effective conservation and management of such stocks;

141. *Urges* States fishing for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks on the high seas, and relevant coastal States, where a subregional or regional fisheries management organization or arrangement has the competence to establish conservation and management measures for such stocks, to give effect to their duty to cooperate by becoming members of such an organization or participants in such an arrangement, or by agreeing to apply the conservation and management measures established by such an organization or arrangement, or to otherwise ensure that no vessel flying their flag is authorized to access the fisheries resources to which regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements or conservation and management measures established by such organizations or arrangements apply;

142. *Invites*, in this regard, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to ensure that all States having a real interest in the fisheries concerned may become members of such organizations or participants in such arrangements, in accordance with the Convention, the Agreement and the Code, provided they have shown their interest in and capacity to comply with the measures adopted by the regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements concerned, including their willingness to effectively exercise flag State control, while recognizing the need to enhance the capacity of developing States in this regard;

143. *Encourages* relevant coastal States and States fishing on the high seas for a straddling fish stock or a highly migratory fish stock, where there is no subregional or regional fisheries management organization or arrangement to establish

[26] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document FIRO/R957 (En), appendix E.

conservation and management measures for such stocks, to cooperate to establish such an organization or enter into another appropriate arrangement to ensure the conservation and management of such stocks, and to participate in the work of the organization or arrangement;

144. *Welcomes in this regard* the progress in the preparation of a draft convention on future multilateral cooperation in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden;

145. *Urges* signatory States and other States whose vessels fish within the area of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Fishery Resources in the South-East Atlantic Ocean[27] for fishery resources covered by that Convention to become parties to that Convention as a matter of priority and, in the interim, to ensure that vessels flying their flags fully comply with the measures adopted;

146. *Encourages* further ratifications of, accessions to, acceptances and approvals of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;[28]

147. *Also encourages* further ratifications of, accessions to, acceptances and approvals of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean;[29]

148. *Further encourages* further ratifications of, accessions to and acceptances and approvals of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, and notes the ongoing efforts by the North Pacific Fisheries Commission to develop and implement conservation and management measures and to strengthen cooperation to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing within the area of that Convention;

149. *Welcomes* the endorsement of the Agreement for the establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, as amended, by the Commission at its thirty-eighth session, held in Rome from 19 to 24 May 2014, and urges those Contracting Parties to the Commission that need to accept the amended Agreement to do so with a view to its early entry into force;

150. *Notes* the ongoing efforts of the members of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission to strengthen the functioning of the Commission so that it can more effectively discharge its mandate, and invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to provide members of the Commission with the necessary assistance to this end;

151. *Encourages* signatory States and States having a real interest to become parties to the Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica;

152. *Welcomes* the entry into force on 18 May 2017 of the 2007 Amendment to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries;[30]

153. *Urges* further efforts by regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as a matter of priority, in accordance with international law, to strengthen and modernize their mandates and the measures adopted by such organizations or arrangements, and to implement modern approaches to fisheries management, as reflected in the Agreement and other relevant international instruments, relying on the best scientific information available and application of the

[27] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2221, No. 39489.
[28] Ibid., vol. 2835, No. 49647.
[29] Ibid., vol. 2899, No. 50553.
[30] Ibid., vol. 1135, No. 17799.

precautionary approach and incorporating an ecosystem approach to fisheries management and biodiversity considerations, including the conservation and management of ecologically related and dependent species and protection of their habitats, where these aspects are lacking, to ensure that they effectively contribute to long-term conservation and management and sustainable use of living marine resources, and welcomes those regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements that have taken steps in this direction;

154. *Calls upon* regional fisheries management organizations with the competence to conserve and manage highly migratory fish stocks that have not yet adopted effective conservation and management measures in line with the best scientific information available to conserve and manage stocks falling under their mandate to do so urgently;

155. *Urges* States to strengthen and enhance cooperation among existing and developing regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in which they participate, including increased communication and further coordination of measures, such as through the holding of joint consultations, and to strengthen integration, coordination and cooperation by such regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with other relevant fisheries organizations, regional seas arrangements and other relevant international organizations;

156. *Urges* the five regional fisheries management organizations with competence to manage highly migratory species to continue to take measures to implement the Course of Actions adopted at the second joint meeting of tuna regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and to consider the recommendations of the third joint meeting of tuna regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements;

157. *Invites* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with competence to manage straddling fish stocks to share experiences and good practices, for example by considering organizing joint meetings, where appropriate;

158. *Invites* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with competence to manage deep-sea fisheries to share experiences and good practices, for example by considering organizing joint meetings, where appropriate;

159. *Urges* regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to improve transparency and to ensure that their decision-making processes are fair and transparent and facilitate the adoption of conservation and management measures in a timely and effective manner, including considering provisions for effective voting and objection procedures where appropriate, to rely on the best scientific information available, incorporate the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches, and address participatory rights, including through, inter alia, the development of transparent criteria for allocating fishing opportunities which reflects, where appropriate, the relevant provisions of the Agreement, taking due account, inter alia, of the status of the relevant stocks and the respective interests in the fishery;

160. *Welcomes* the fact that a number of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements have completed performance reviews, and encourages the implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations of their respective reviews as a matter of priority;

161. *Urges* States, through their participation in regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements that have not done so, to undertake, on an urgent basis, performance reviews of those regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, initiated either by the organization or arrangement itself or with

external partners, including in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, using transparent criteria based on the provisions of the Agreement and other relevant instruments, and taking into account the best practices of regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements and, as appropriate, any set of criteria developed by States or other regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, and encourages that such performance reviews include some element of independent evaluation and propose means for improving the functioning of the regional fisheries management organization or arrangement, as appropriate;

162. *Calls upon* States, through their participation in regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to undertake performance reviews of those regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements on a regular basis, and to make the results publicly available, to implement the recommendations of such reviews and to strengthen the comprehensiveness of those reviews over time, as necessary;

163. *Recalls* that, in "The future we want", States recognized the need for transparency and accountability in fisheries management by regional fisheries management organizations and the efforts already made by those regional fisheries management organizations that had undertaken independent performance reviews, called upon all regional fisheries management organizations to regularly undertake such reviews and make the results publicly available, encouraged implementation of the recommendations of such reviews and recommended that the comprehensiveness of those reviews be strengthened over time, as necessary;

164. *Urges* States to cooperate, taking into account those performance reviews, to develop best-practice guidelines for regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and to apply, to the extent possible, those guidelines to organizations and arrangements in which they participate;

165. *Encourages* the development of regional guidelines for States to use in establishing sanctions for non-compliance by vessels flying their flag and by their nationals, to be applied in accordance with national law, that are adequate in severity for effectively securing compliance, deterring further violations and depriving offenders of the benefits deriving from their illegal activities, as well as in evaluating their systems of sanctions to ensure that they are effective in securing compliance and deterring violations;

166. *Recognizes* the importance of ensuring transparency of reporting of fishing activities within regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in order to facilitate efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, as well as the importance of respecting the reporting obligations within those organizations and arrangements, notes in this regard the measures adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas[31] and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission,[32] and encourages other regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to consider establishing similar measures;

X
Responsible fisheries in the marine ecosystem

167. *Encourages* States, individually and through relevant international bodies, to improve the understanding of the causes and impacts of forced labour and human trafficking in the fishing and aquaculture industries, including processing and related

[31] International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, recommendation 11-16.
[32] Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, resolutions 12/07 and 13/07.

industries, and to further consider actions to combat these practices, including raising awareness of the issue;

168. *Acknowledges* the entry into force of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) on 16 November 2017, and of the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) on 9 November 2016, as relevant instruments that ensure decent working conditions in fisheries and other maritime sectors, and notes in this regard the tripartite meeting on issues relating to migrant fishers, held in Geneva from 18 to 22 September 2017 under the auspices of the International Labour Organization;

169. *Calls upon* flag States to effectively implement their duty under the Convention with respect to labour conditions, taking into account applicable international instruments and national laws, and in this regard encourages States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), and to implement the Guidelines for port State control officers carrying out inspections under the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) and the Guidelines on flag State inspection of working and living conditions on board fishing vessels;

170. *Urges* States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to enhance their efforts to apply an ecosystem approach to fisheries, taking into account paragraph 30 (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

171. *Encourages* States, individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and other relevant international organizations, to work to ensure that fisheries and other ecosystem data collection is performed in a coordinated and integrated manner, facilitating incorporation into global observation initiatives, where appropriate;

172. *Calls upon* States and regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, working in cooperation with other relevant organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the World Meteorological Organization, to adopt, as appropriate, measures to protect ocean data buoy systems moored in areas beyond national jurisdiction from actions that impair their operation;

173. *Encourages* States to increase scientific research on the marine ecosystem in accordance with international law;

174. *Calls upon* States, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other specialized agencies, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, where appropriate, and other appropriate intergovernmental bodies to cooperate in achieving sustainable aquaculture, including through information exchange, developing equivalent standards on such issues as aquatic animal health and human health and safety concerns, assessing the potential positive and negative impacts of aquaculture, including socioeconomics, on the marine and coastal environment, including biodiversity, and adopting relevant methods and techniques to minimize and mitigate adverse effects, and in this regard encourages the implementation of the 2007 Strategy and Outline Plan for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Aquaculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as a framework for the improvement and understanding of aquaculture status and trends;

175. *Calls upon* States to take action immediately, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, and consistent with the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches, to continue to implement the

2008 International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (the Guidelines) in order to sustainably manage fish stocks and protect vulnerable marine ecosystems, including seamounts, hydrothermal vents and cold water corals, from fishing practices with significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems, recognizing the immense importance and value of deep-sea ecosystems and the biodiversity they contain as documented in the first World Ocean Assessment;

176. *Recalls*, in this regard, that, in "The future we want", States committed to enhance actions to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from significant adverse impacts, including through the effective use of impact assessments, consistent with international law, the applicable international instruments and relevant General Assembly resolutions and guidelines of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

177. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the workshop on deep-sea fisheries and vulnerable marine ecosystems in the Eastern Central Atlantic, convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in collaboration with the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic, held in Dakar from 8 to 10 November 2016;

178. *Reaffirms* the importance of paragraphs 80 to 90 of resolution 61/105, paragraphs 113 to 127 of resolution 64/72, paragraphs 121 to 136 of resolution 66/68 of 6 December 2011 and paragraphs 156, 171 to 188 and 219 of resolution 71/123 addressing the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks and the actions called for in those resolutions, and emphasizes the need for full implementation by all States and relevant regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements of their commitments under those paragraphs on an urgent basis;

179. *Urges* States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to ensure that their actions in sustainably managing deep-sea fisheries and implementing paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105, paragraphs 113 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72, paragraphs 121, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68 and paragraphs 156, 171 to 188 and 219 of resolution 71/123 are consistent with the Guidelines;

180. *Recalls* that nothing in the paragraphs of resolutions 61/105, 64/72, 66/68 and 71/123 addressing the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems prejudices the sovereign rights of coastal States over their continental shelf or the exercise of the jurisdiction of coastal States with respect to their continental shelf under international law as reflected in the Convention, in particular article 77 thereof;

181. *Notes in this regard* the adoption by coastal States of conservation measures regarding their continental shelf to address the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems, as well as their efforts to ensure compliance with those measures;

182. *Reiterates* the importance of marine scientific research for the sustainable management of deep-sea fishery resources, including target fish stocks and non-target species, and to protect the marine ecosystem, including the prevention of significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems;

183. *Welcomes* the important progress made by States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and those States participating in negotiations to establish a regional fisheries management organization or arrangement competent to regulate bottom fisheries to implement paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105, paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72 and paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68 and address the

impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems, but notes with concern the uneven implementation of those provisions and that, in particular, bottom fishing continues to occur in certain areas beyond national jurisdiction without an impact assessment having been completed in the 10 years since the adoption of resolution 61/105, in which the General Assembly called for such assessments to be undertaken by 31 December 2008;

184. *Calls upon*, in this regard, States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with the competence to regulate deep-sea fisheries, and States participating in negotiations to establish such organizations or arrangements to take, in particular, the following urgent actions regarding bottom fishing in areas beyond national jurisdiction:

(a) To use, as applicable, the full set of criteria in the Guidelines to identify where vulnerable marine ecosystems occur or are likely to occur as well as for assessing significant adverse impacts;

(b) To ensure that impact assessments, including for cumulative impacts of activities covered by the assessment, are conducted consistent with the Guidelines, particularly paragraph 47 thereof, are reviewed periodically and are revised thereafter whenever a substantial change in the fishery has occurred or there is relevant new information, and that, where such impact assessments have not been undertaken, they are carried out as a priority before authorizing bottom fishing activities;

(c) To ensure that conservation and management measures adopted by States and regional fisheries organizations and arrangements are based on and updated on the basis of the best available scientific information, noting in particular the need to improve effective implementation of thresholds and move-on rules;

185. *Recognizes* that different types of marine scientific research, such as, inter alia, seabed mapping, mapping of vulnerable marine ecosystems based on information from the fishing fleet, on-site camera observations from remote vehicles, benthic ecosystem modelling, comparative benthic studies and predictive modelling have resulted in identification of areas where vulnerable marine ecosystems are known or are likely to occur and in the adoption of conservation and management measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on such ecosystems, including the closure of areas to bottom fishing in accordance with paragraph 119 (b) of resolution 64/72;

186. *Encourages*, in this regard, States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with the competence to manage bottom fisheries, and States participating in negotiations to establish such organizations or arrangements, to consider the results available from different types of marine scientific research, including, as appropriate, those listed in paragraph 185 above, concerning the identification of areas containing vulnerable marine ecosystems, and to adopt conservation and management measures to prevent significant adverse impacts from bottom fishing on such ecosystems, consistent with the Guidelines, or to close such areas to bottom fishing until such conservation and management measures are adopted, as well as to continue to undertake further marine scientific research, for the above-mentioned purposes, in accordance with international law, as reflected in Part XIII of the Convention;

187. *Encourages*, in this regard, States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with the competence to manage deep-sea fisheries, and States participating in negotiations to establish such organizations or arrangements to carry out further marine scientific research to address the remaining knowledge gaps, in particular with regard to fish stock assessments, and to base and update conservation and management measures on the best available scientific

information, in accordance with international law, as reflected in Part XIII of the Convention;

188. *Notes with concern* that vulnerable marine ecosystems may also be impacted by human activities other than bottom fishing, and encourages in this regard States and competent international organizations to consider taking action to address such impacts;

189. *Calls upon* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to take into account the potential impacts of climate change and ocean acidification in taking measures to manage deep-sea fisheries and protect vulnerable marine ecosystems;

190. *Calls upon* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements with the competence to regulate deep-sea fisheries, to adopt conservation and management measures, including monitoring, control and surveillance measures, on the basis of the best available scientific information, including stock assessments, to ensure the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks and non-target species and the rebuilding of depleted stocks, consistent with the Guidelines and, where scientific information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate, to ensure that conservation and management measures are established consistent with the precautionary approach, in particular with regard to vulnerable, threatened or endangered species;

191. *Recognizes*, in particular, the special circumstances and requirements of developing States and the specific challenges they may face in giving full effect to certain technical aspects of the Guidelines, and that implementation by such States of paragraphs 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105, paragraph 119 of resolution 64/72, paragraph 129 of resolution 66/68 and paragraph 180 of resolution 71/123 and the Guidelines should proceed in a manner that gives full consideration to section 6 of the Guidelines on the special requirements of developing countries;

192. *Recognizes* the need to enhance the capacity of developing States, including with regard to stock assessments, impact assessments, scientific and technical knowledge and training, and encourages States to provide technical and financial support to developing countries to address their special requirements and challenges in implementing the Guidelines;

193. *Welcomes* the substantial ongoing work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations related to the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas and the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, including the publication of the technical paper entitled "Vulnerable marine ecosystems: processes and practices in the high seas", affirms the importance of the work undertaken pursuant to paragraphs 135 and 136 of resolution 66/68, and notes in particular the support provided by that Organization to States in implementing the Guidelines;

194. *Recalls* the decision to conduct in 2020 a further review of the actions taken by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in response to paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72, paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68 and paragraphs 156, 171, 175, 177 to 188 and 219 of resolution 71/123, with a view to ensuring effective implementation of the measures therein and to make further recommendations, where necessary, and decides to precede that review with a two-day workshop;

195. *Encourages* accelerated progress to establish criteria on the objectives, establishment and management of marine protected areas for fisheries purposes, and in this regard welcomes the development by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of technical guidelines on marine protected areas and fisheries,

also encourages their application, and urges coordination and cooperation among all relevant international organizations and bodies;

196. *Also encourages* efforts to establish guidance on the objectives, establishment and management of other effective area-based conservation measures for fisheries purposes, and encourages coordination and cooperation for this purpose among all relevant international organizations and bodies;

197. *Urges* all States to implement the 1995 Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities[33] and to accelerate activity to safeguard the marine ecosystem, including fish stocks, against pollution and physical degradation, taking into account the increase in oceanic dead zones;

198. *Calls upon* States, either individually, collectively or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to further study, develop and adopt effective management measures, and disseminate information in that regard, taking into account the best available scientific information, on fishing methods, gear types and uses to minimize mortality and other harms caused by abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear;

199. *Acknowledges* the serious environmental, as well as economic and social, impacts on the marine environment caused by abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, and encourages States, and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as appropriate, to take action to reduce such gear, noting the recommendations of the 2009 report by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

200. *Reaffirms* the importance it attaches to paragraphs 77 to 81 of resolution 60/31 of 29 November 2005 concerning the issue of lost, abandoned or otherwise discarded fishing gear and related marine debris and the adverse impacts such debris and derelict fishing gear have on, inter alia, fish stocks, habitats and other marine species, and urges accelerated progress by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in implementing those paragraphs of the resolution;

201. *Welcomes in this regard* the ongoing work in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to further develop guidelines on the marking of fishing gear, through a technical consultation, and encourages the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to conduct pilot projects to avoid ghost fishing by retrieving abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear and on the marking of fishing gear in developing countries in order to facilitate the implementation of those guidelines;

202. *Encourages* further studies, including by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, on the impacts of underwater noise on fish stocks and fishing catch rates, as well as associated socioeconomic effects;

203. *Calls upon* States, including through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to play an active role in global efforts to conserve and sustainably use living marine resources, so as to contribute to marine biological diversity;

204. *Encourages* States, either individually or through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as appropriate, to identify any spawning and nursery areas for fish stocks under their jurisdiction or competence and, where required, to adopt science-based measures to conserve such stocks during these critical life stages;

[33] A/51/116, annex II.

205. *Expresses concern* about the continuing influx of sargassum seaweed into the waters of the Caribbean and its impact on aquatic resources, fisheries, shorelines, waterways and tourism, and encourages States and relevant regional organizations to cooperate to better understand the causes and impacts of the influx, with a view to protecting the livelihoods of fishers and fishing communities and finding ways of beneficially utilizing the seaweed and environmentally friendly ways of disposing of sargassum washed up on shore;

206. *Recognizes* the wide range of impacts of ocean acidification on marine ecosystems, and calls upon States to tackle the causes of ocean acidification and to further study its impacts;

207. *Emphasizes* the importance of developing adaptive marine resource management strategies and enhancing capacity-building to implement such strategies in order to enhance the resilience of marine ecosystems to minimize the wide range of impacts on marine organisms and threats to food security caused by ocean acidification, in particular the impacts on the ability of calciferous plankton, coral reefs, shellfish and crustaceans to build shells and skeletal structures and the threats this could pose to protein supply;

XI
Capacity-building

208. *Reiterates* the crucial importance of cooperation by States directly or, as appropriate, through the relevant subregional and regional organizations, and by other international organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations through its FishCode programme, including through financial and/or technical assistance, in accordance with the Agreement, the Compliance Agreement, the Code and its associated international plans of action, to increase the capacity of developing States to achieve the goals and implement the actions called for in the present resolution;

209. *Welcomes* the ongoing work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in developing guidance on, and assisting in the implementation of, the strategies and measures required for the creation of an enabling environment for sustainable small-scale fisheries, and encourages studies for creating possible alternative livelihoods for coastal communities;

210. *Recalls* that, in "The future we want", States recognized the importance of building the capacity of developing countries to be able to benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and their resources, and in this regard emphasized the need for cooperation in marine scientific research to implement the provisions of the Convention and the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, as well as for the transfer of technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology;

211. *Also recalls* that, in "The future we want", States urged the identification and mainstreaming by 2014 of strategies that further assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, in developing their national capacity to conserve, sustainably manage and realize the benefits of sustainable fisheries, including through improved market access for fish products from developing countries;

212. *Encourages* increased capacity-building and technical assistance by States, international financial institutions and relevant intergovernmental organizations and bodies for fishers, in particular small-scale fishers, in developing countries, and in particular small island developing States, consistent with environmental

sustainability, in recognition of the fact that food security and livelihoods may depend on fisheries;

213. *Encourages* States to cooperate closely, directly or through the United Nations system, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with a view to enhancing capacity-building of developing States, including coastal States, in particular small island developing States, in the field of fisheries and aquaculture through education and training;

214. *Recognizes*, in this regard, the work of the United Nations University Fisheries Training Programme in Iceland and its contribution to training for developing States, in particular small island developing States, and emphasizes the need for the continuation and strengthening of this training for developing States;

215. *Encourages* the international community to enhance the opportunities for sustainable development in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States and coastal African States, by encouraging greater participation of those States in authorized fisheries activities being undertaken within areas under their national jurisdiction, in accordance with the Convention, by distant-water fishing nations in order to achieve better economic returns for developing countries from their fisheries resources within areas under their national jurisdiction and an enhanced role in regional fisheries management, as well as by enhancing the ability of developing countries to develop their own fisheries, as well as to participate in high seas fisheries, including access to such fisheries, in conformity with international law, in particular the Convention and the Agreement, and taking into account article 5 of the Code;

216. *Welcomes* the progress made at the first meeting of the parties to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing towards the future establishment of an assistance fund under article 21 of that Agreement to be administered by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the purpose of assisting developing States parties, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing States, in the implementation of that Agreement and the acknowledgement by the ad hoc working group established by the parties to that Agreement that access to the assistance fund by developing States parties should be transparent, equitable, simple and well coordinated;

217. *Requests* distant-water fishing nations, when negotiating access agreements and arrangements with developing coastal States, to do so on an equitable and sustainable basis and to take into account their legitimate expectation to fully benefit from the sustainable use of the natural resources of their exclusive economic zones, to ensure that vessels flying their flag comply with the laws and regulations of the developing coastal States adopted in accordance with international law and to give greater attention to fish processing and fish-processing facilities within the national jurisdiction of the developing coastal State to assist the realization of the benefits from the development of fisheries resources and also to the transfer of technology and assistance for monitoring, control and surveillance and compliance and enforcement within areas under the national jurisdiction of the developing coastal State providing fisheries access, taking into account the forms of cooperation set out in article 25 of the Agreement and article 5 of the Code;

218. *Encourages*, in this regard, greater transparency regarding fisheries access agreements, including by making them publicly available, subject to confidentiality requirements;

219. *Encourages* States, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to provide greater assistance and to

promote coherence in such assistance for developing States in designing, establishing and implementing relevant agreements, instruments and tools for the conservation and sustainable management of fish stocks, including in designing and strengthening their domestic regulatory fisheries policies and those of regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements in their regions, and the enhancement of research and scientific capabilities through existing funds, such as the Assistance Fund under Part VII of the Agreement, bilateral assistance, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements assistance funds, the FishCode programme, the World Bank's global programme on fisheries and the Global Environment Facility;

220. *Calls upon* States to promote, through continuing dialogue and the assistance and cooperation provided in accordance with articles 24 to 26 of the Agreement, further ratifications of or accessions to the Agreement by seeking to address, inter alia, the issue of lack of capacity and resources that might stand in the way of developing States becoming parties;

221. *Notes with appreciation* the compilation, prepared by the Secretariat and available on the website of the Division, of the needs of developing States for capacity-building and assistance in the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and the sources of available assistance for developing States to address such needs;

222. *Encourages* States, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and other relevant bodies to assist developing States in the implementation of the actions called for in paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of resolution 61/105, paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72, paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68 and paragraphs 156, 171, 175 and 177 to 188 of resolution 71/123;

223. *Urges* States and regional economic integration organizations, individually and through regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, to mainstream efforts to assist developing States, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, with other relevant international development strategies with a view to enhancing international coordination to enable them to develop their national capacity to exploit fishery resources, consistent with the duty to ensure the conservation and management of those resources, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to fully mobilize and coordinate the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including at the level of the regional economic commissions, within their respective mandates;

224. *Requests* States and regional fisheries management organizations to develop strategies to further assist developing States, in particular the least developed and small island developing States, in fully realizing the benefits from the catch of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and in strengthening regional efforts to sustainably conserve and manage such stocks, and, in this regard, to make available such information;

XII
Cooperation within the United Nations system

225. *Requests* the relevant parts of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and donor agencies to support increased enforcement and compliance capabilities for regional fisheries management organizations and their member States;

226. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue its cooperative arrangements with United Nations agencies on the implementation of the international plans of action;

XIII
Activities of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

227. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the activities of the Division, which reflect the high standard of assistance provided to Member States by the Division;

228. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to carry out the responsibilities and functions entrusted to him by the Convention, the Agreement and the related resolutions of the General Assembly and to ensure the allocation of appropriate resources to the Division for the performance of its activities under the approved budget for the Organization;

XIV
Seventy-third session of the General Assembly

229. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all States, relevant intergovernmental organizations, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations;

230. *Notes* the desire to further improve the efficiency of and the effective participation of delegations in the informal consultations concerning the annual General Assembly resolution on sustainable fisheries, decides that the informal consultations on this resolution will be held in a single round of consultations in November for a period of six days, requests the Secretary-General to provide support to the consultations through the Division, and invites States to submit proposals for inclusion in the text of the resolution to the Coordinator of the informal consultations no later than five weeks before the start of the consultations;

231. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea", the sub-item entitled "Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments", and to consider the possibility of including this sub-item in future provisional agendas on a biennial basis.

64th plenary meeting
5 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/73

General Assembly

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Seventy-second session
Agenda item 77 (a)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.18 and A/72/L.18/Add.1)*]

72/73. Oceans and the law of the sea

The General Assembly,

Recalling its annual resolutions on the law of the sea and on oceans and the law of the sea, including resolution 71/257 of 23 December 2016, as well as other relevant resolutions concerning the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Convention),[1]

Recalling also, in this regard, resolution 69/292 of 19 June 2015 on the development of an international legally binding instrument under the Convention on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[2] the reports on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (the Regular Process)[3] and of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (the Informal Consultative Process) at its eighteenth meeting,[4] the report of the twenty-seventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention[5] and the report of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,[6]

Recognizing the pre-eminent contribution provided by the Convention to the strengthening of peace, security, cooperation and friendly relations among all nations

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.
[2] See A/72/70 and A/72/70/Add.1.
[3] A/72/89 and A/72/494.
[4] A/72/95.
[5] SPLOS/316.
[6] A/CONF.230/14.

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in conformity with the principles of justice and equal rights and to the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples of the world, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as to the sustainable development of the oceans and seas,

Emphasizing the universal and unified character of the Convention, and reaffirming that the Convention sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out and is of strategic importance as the basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector, and that its integrity needs to be maintained, as recognized also by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[7]

Noting with satisfaction that, in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[8] as endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, States recognized that oceans, seas and coastal areas form an integrated and essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are critical to sustaining it, and that international law, as reflected in the Convention, provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources, and stressed the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and of their resources for sustainable development, including through their contributions to poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, food security and creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent work, while at the same time protecting biodiversity and the marine environment and addressing the impacts of climate change,

Recalling that, in "The future we want", States underscored that broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings were essential to the promotion of sustainable development and that sustainable development required the meaningful involvement and active participation of regional, national and subnational legislatures and judiciaries, and all major groups, and, in this regard, that they agreed to work more closely with major groups and other stakeholders and encouraged their active participation, as appropriate, in processes that contribute to decision-making, planning and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development at all levels,

Welcoming the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, held from 25 to 27 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, and in this regard reaffirming the commitment to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, as reflected in Goal 14 of the outcome document,

Recognizing the important contribution of the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources to the achievement of the sustainable development goals contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling its resolution 71/312 of 6 July 2017 in which it endorsed the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action" adopted by the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with

[7] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[8] Resolution 66/288, annex.

World Oceans Day on 8 June, and in this regard affirming the important role of the declaration in demonstrating the collective will to take action to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,

Recognizing the important contributions of the partnership dialogues and voluntary commitments made in the context of the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 to the effective and timely implementation of Goal 14,

Recognizing also the appointment by the Secretary-General of the Special Envoy for the Ocean,

Recognizing further paragraphs 64 and 65 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, adopted by the Conference, which was held from 13 to 16 July 2015,[9]

Welcoming the outcomes of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, especially the resolutions on oceans and seas,[10] marine plastic litter and microplastics,[11] sustainable coral reefs management[12] and the role, functions and modalities for United Nations Environment Programme implementation of the Samoa Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,[13]

Conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach, and reaffirming the need to improve cooperation and coordination at the national, regional and global levels, in accordance with the Convention, to support and supplement the efforts of each State in promoting the implementation and observance of the Convention and the integrated management and sustainable development of the oceans and seas,

Reiterating the essential need for cooperation, including through capacity-building and transfer of marine technology, to ensure that all States, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, are able both to implement the Convention and to benefit from the sustainable development of the oceans and seas, as well as to participate fully in global and regional forums and processes dealing with oceans and law of the sea issues, while recognizing the need to also address the particular challenges faced by developing middle-income countries,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the ability of competent international organizations to contribute, at the global, regional, subregional and bilateral levels, through cooperation programmes with Governments, to the development of national capacity in marine science and the sustainable management of the oceans and their resources,

Recalling that marine science is important for eradicating poverty, contributing to food security, conserving the world's marine environment and resources, helping to understand, predict and respond to natural events and promoting the sustainable development of the oceans and seas, by improving knowledge, through sustained

[9] Resolution 69/313, annex.
[10] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/71/25), annex, resolution 2/10.
[11] Ibid., resolution 2/11.
[12] Ibid., resolution 2/12.
[13] Ibid., resolution 2/4.

research efforts and the evaluation of monitoring results, and applying such knowledge to management and decision-making,

Reiterating its deep concern at the serious adverse impacts on the marine environment and biodiversity, in particular on vulnerable marine ecosystems and their physical and biogenic structure, including coral reefs, cold water habitats, hydrothermal vents and seamounts, of certain human activities,

Emphasizing the need for the safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships,

Expressing deep concern at the adverse economic, social and environmental impacts of the physical alteration and destruction of marine habitats that may result from land-based and coastal development activities, in particular those land reclamation activities that are carried out in a manner that has a detrimental impact on the marine environment,

Reiterating its serious concern at the current and projected adverse effects of climate change and ocean acidification on the marine environment and marine biodiversity, and emphasizing the urgency of addressing these issues,

Noting with concern, in this regard, the findings by the World Meteorological Organization, in its annual *Greenhouse gas bulletin*, that for the first time, in 2015, carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere were 400 parts per million, on average across the year as a whole,

Expressing concern that climate change continues to increase the severity and incidence of coral bleaching throughout tropical seas and weakens the ability of reefs to withstand ocean acidification, which could have serious and irreversible negative effects on marine organisms, particularly corals, as well as to withstand other pressures, including overfishing and pollution,

Reiterating its deep concern at the vulnerability of the environment and the fragile ecosystems of the polar regions, including the Arctic Ocean and the Arctic ice cap, particularly affected by the projected adverse effects of climate change and ocean acidification,

Recognizing the need for a more integrated and ecosystem-based approach to, further study of and the promotion of measures for enhanced cooperation, coordination and collaboration relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction,

Recognizing also that the realization of the benefits of the Convention could be enhanced by international cooperation, technical assistance and advanced scientific knowledge, as well as by funding and capacity-building,

Recognizing further that hydrographic surveys and nautical charting are critical to the safety of navigation and life at sea, environmental protection, including the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, and the economics of the global shipping industry, and encouraging further efforts towards electronic charting, which not only provides significantly increased benefits for safe navigation and management of ship movement, but also provides data and information that can be used for sustainable fisheries activities and other sectoral uses of the marine environment, the delimitation of maritime boundaries and environmental protection, and noting that, under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974,[14] ships on international voyages are required to carry an electronic chart display and information system, in accordance with the implementation schedule as set out in that Convention,

[14] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1184, No. 18961.

Recognizing that ocean data buoys deployed and operated in accordance with international law are critical for improving understanding of weather, climate and ecosystems, and that certain types of ocean data buoys contribute to saving lives by detecting tsunamis, and reiterating its serious concern at intentional and unintentional damage to such buoys,

Emphasizing that underwater archaeological, cultural and historical heritage, including shipwrecks and watercraft, holds essential information on the history of humankind and that such heritage is a resource that needs to be protected and preserved,

Recognizing the duty of States under article 303, paragraph 1, of the Convention to protect objects of an archaeological and historical nature found at sea and to cooperate for this purpose,

Expressing concern, in this regard, at various threats posed to such objects, including their destruction as well as the illicit trafficking in such objects,

Recognizing that illicit trafficking in wildlife is, in some cases, committed by transnational organized criminal groups using maritime routes, contributes to damage to ecosystems and livelihoods and requires enhanced regional and global cooperation and coordination in response, in accordance with international law,

Noting with concern the continuing problem of transnational organized crime committed at sea, including illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and illicit trafficking in firearms, and threats to maritime safety and security, including piracy, armed robbery at sea, smuggling and terrorist acts against shipping, offshore installations and other maritime interests, and noting the deplorable loss of life and adverse impact on international trade, energy security and the global economy resulting from such activities,

Reiterating the importance of the fair treatment of crew members and its influence on maritime safety,

Recognizing that fibre-optic submarine cables transmit most of the world's data and communications and hence are vitally important to the global economy and the national security of all States, conscious that these cables are susceptible to intentional and accidental damage from shipping and other activities and that the maintenance, including the repair, of these cables is important, noting that these matters have been brought to the attention of States at various workshops and seminars, and conscious of the need for States to adopt national laws and regulations to protect submarine cables and render their wilful damage or damage by culpable negligence punishable offences,

Noting the importance of the delineation of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles and that it is in the broader interest of the international community that coastal States with a continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles submit information on the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (the Commission), and welcoming the submissions to the Commission by a considerable number of States Parties to the Convention on the outer limits of their continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, that the Commission has continued to fulfil its role, including of making recommendations to coastal States, and that the summaries of recommendations are being made publicly available,[15]

[15] Available from the web page of the Commission maintained by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

Noting also that many coastal States Parties have submitted preliminary information indicative of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, as provided for in the decision of the eighteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention regarding the workload of the Commission and the ability of States, particularly developing States, to fulfil the requirements of article 4 of annex II to the Convention, as well as the decision contained in SPLOS/72, paragraph (a),[16]

Noting further that some coastal States may continue to face particular challenges in relation to preparing and presenting submissions to the Commission,

Noting that financial and technical assistance may be sought by developing countries for activities in relation to preparing and presenting submissions to the Commission, including through the voluntary trust fund established by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/7 of 30 October 2000 for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and compliance with article 76 of the Convention, as well as other accessible international assistance,

Recognizing the importance of the trust funds established pursuant to resolution 55/7 in facilitating the participation of members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission and in fulfilling the requirements of article 4 of annex II to the Convention, noting with appreciation the recent contributions made to them, while observing with concern that the lack of funds in the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of the participation in its meetings of the members of the Commission from developing States may prevent the Commission from implementing the decision of the twenty-sixth Meeting of States Parties that requested the Commission to meet for up to 26 weeks, and may preclude the Commission from advancing its work as a result of the potential lack of a quorum at the 2018 sessions, and in this regard urging States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to contribute to the trust fund,

Reaffirming the importance of the work of the Commission for coastal States and for the international community,

Recognizing that practical difficulties can arise when there is a considerable delay between the preparation of submissions and their consideration by the Commission, including in retaining expertise up to and during the consideration of the submissions by the Commission,

Recognizing also the significant workload of the Commission in view of the large number of submissions already received and a number of submissions yet to be received, which places additional demands and challenges on its members and the secretariat as provided by the Secretary-General of the United Nations through the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat (the Division), and welcoming the decision of the twenty-first Meeting of States Parties to the Convention regarding the workload of the Commission,[17]

Noting with concern the projected timetable of the work of the Commission on the submissions already received by it and those yet to be received, and in this regard noting the decision of the twenty-sixth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention to renew the request made by the twenty-first Meeting of States Parties to the Convention and to request the Commission to consider, in coordination with the Secretariat, as from 16 June 2017, within the existing resources made available to the Secretariat, that the Commission, and its subcommissions meeting simultaneously as

[16] SPLOS/183.
[17] SPLOS/229.

far as possible, meet at United Nations Headquarters for up to 26 weeks but not less than an intended minimum of 21 weeks a year for a period of five years, distributed in such a way that the Commission determines to be the most effective, and that no two sessions be sequential, and to request the Commission to prepare a plan of sessions to be held in 2017 on the basis of that request,[18]

Recognizing the need to ensure that the Commission can perform its functions under the Convention expeditiously, efficiently and effectively and maintain its high level of quality and expertise,

Expressing concern about the implications of the workload of the Commission for the conditions of service of its members,

Recalling, in this regard, the decisions of the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth Meetings of States Parties to the Convention regarding the conditions of service of the members of the Commission,[19]

Recalling also its decision, in resolutions 57/141 of 12 December 2002 and 58/240 of 23 December 2003, to establish a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects, both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments, as recommended by the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[20] and noting the need for cooperation among all States to this end,

Recalling further its decisions, in resolution 65/37 A of 7 December 2010, resolution 66/231 of 24 December 2011, resolution 70/235 of 23 December 2015 and resolution 71/257 regarding the Regular Process, as established under the United Nations and accountable to the General Assembly,

Recalling that the Division was designated to provide secretariat support to the Regular Process, including its established institutions,

Recalling also the cross-cutting role of ocean science in Sustainable Development Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and taking note that, at its twenty-ninth session, the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization endorsed the proposal for an international decade of ocean science for sustainable development, to be established for the period 2021–2030,

Recognizing the importance and the contribution of the work of the Informal Consultative Process established by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/33 of 24 November 1999 to facilitate the annual review of developments in ocean affairs by the Assembly,

Noting the continuously growing responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the Convention and related resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 49/28 of 6 December 1994, 52/26 of 26 November 1997, 54/33, 65/37 A, 65/37 B of 4 April 2011, 66/231, 67/78 of 11 December 2012, 68/70 of 9 December 2013, 69/245 of 29 December 2014, 69/292, 70/235 and 71/257 and in this context the unprecedented substantial increase in activities of the Division, in particular in view of the growing number of requests to the Division for additional outputs and servicing of meetings, the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building, the need for enhanced support and assistance to the Commission and the role of the Division in carrying out the functions in resolution 69/292, as the secretariat of the

[18] See SPLOS/303.

[19] SPLOS/286 and SPLOS/303.

[20] See *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Regular Process, in relation to the functions as focal point for UN-Oceans and in relation to support for the implementation by Member States of the oceans-related Sustainable Development Goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming the importance of the work of the International Seabed Authority (the Authority) in accordance with the Convention and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (the Part XI Agreement),[21]

Reaffirming also the importance of the work of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (the Tribunal) in accordance with the Convention,

I
Implementation of the Convention and related agreements and instruments

1. *Reaffirms* its annual resolutions on the law of the sea and on oceans and the law of the sea, including resolution 71/257, and other relevant resolutions concerning the Convention;[1]

2. *Also reaffirms* the unified character of the Convention and the vital importance of preserving its integrity;

3. *Calls upon* all States that have not done so, in order to fully achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Convention and the Part XI Agreement;[21]

4. *Calls upon* States that have not done so, in order to achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (the Fish Stocks Agreement);[22]

5. *Calls upon* States to harmonize their national legislation with the provisions of the Convention and, where applicable, relevant agreements and instruments, to ensure the consistent application of those provisions and to ensure also that any declarations or statements that they have made or make when signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention do not purport to exclude or to modify the legal effect of the provisions of the Convention in their application to the State concerned and to withdraw any such declarations or statements;

6. *Calls upon* States Parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to deposit with the Secretary-General charts or lists of geographical coordinates, as provided for in the Convention, preferably using the generally accepted and most recent geodetic datums;

7. *Notes*, in this regard, the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General to improve the existing geographic information system for the deposit by States of charts and geographical coordinates concerning maritime zones, including lines of delimitation, submitted pursuant to the Convention, and to give due publicity thereto, as requested in paragraph 6 of resolution 59/24 of 17 November 2004, as well as the ongoing cooperation with the International Hydrographic Organization to develop the technical standards for the collection, storage and dissemination of the information deposited, in order to ensure compatibility among geographic information systems, electronic nautical charts and other systems, and re-emphasizes the importance of the prompt completion of these efforts;

[21] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1836, No. 31364.
[22] Ibid., vol. 2167, No. 37924.

8. *Urges* all States to cooperate, directly or through competent international bodies, in taking measures to protect and preserve objects of an archaeological and historical nature found at sea, in conformity with the Convention, and calls upon States to work together on such diverse challenges and opportunities as the appropriate relationship between salvage law and scientific management and conservation of underwater cultural heritage, increasing technological abilities to discover and reach underwater sites, looting and growing underwater tourism;

9. *Acknowledges* the recent deposit of instruments of ratification and acceptance of the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage,[23] calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to that Convention, and notes in particular the rules annexed to that Convention, which address the relationship between salvage law and scientific principles of management, conservation and protection of underwater cultural heritage among Parties, their nationals and vessels flying their flag;

II
Capacity-building

10. *Emphasizes* that capacity-building is essential to ensure that States, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, are able to fully implement the Convention, benefit from the sustainable development of the oceans and seas and participate fully in global and regional forums on ocean affairs and the law of the sea;

11. *Also emphasizes* the need to address the particular challenges faced by developing middle-income countries through capacity-building;

12. *Recalls*, in this regard, that, in "The future we want",[8] States recognized the importance of building the capacity of developing countries to be able to benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and their resources, and in this regard emphasized the need for cooperation in marine scientific research to implement the provisions of the Convention and the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, as well as for the transfer of technology, taking into account the Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology adopted by the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-second session, in 2003;

13. *Emphasizes* the need for international cooperation for capacity-building, including cross-sectoral cooperation, at national, regional and global levels, to address, in particular, gaps in capacity-building in ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including marine science;

14. *Calls for* capacity-building initiatives to take into account the needs of developing countries, and calls upon States, international organizations and donor agencies to make efforts to ensure the sustainability of such initiatives;

15. *Calls upon* donor agencies and international financial institutions to keep their programmes systematically under review to ensure the availability in all States, particularly in developing States, of the economic, legal, navigational, scientific and technical skills necessary for the full implementation of the Convention and the objectives of the present resolution, as well as the sustainable development of the oceans and seas nationally, regionally and globally, and in so doing to bear in mind the interests and needs of landlocked developing States;

[23] Ibid., vol. 2562, No. 45694.

16. *Encourages* intensified efforts to build capacity for developing countries, in particular for the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, to improve aids to navigation and search and rescue services, hydrographic services and the production of nautical charts, including electronic charts, as well as the mobilization of resources and building of capacity with support from international financial institutions and the donor community;

17. *Calls upon* States and international institutions, including through bilateral, regional and global cooperation programmes, technical partnerships and fellowships, to continue to support and strengthen capacity-building activities, in particular in developing countries, in the field of marine scientific research by, inter alia, training personnel to develop and enhance relevant expertise, providing the necessary equipment, facilities and vessels and transferring environmentally sound technologies;

18. *Also calls upon* States and international institutions, including through bilateral, regional and global cooperation programmes, technical partnerships and fellowships, to support and strengthen capacity-building activities in developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, to develop their maritime administration and appropriate legal frameworks to establish or enhance the necessary infrastructure, legislative and enforcement capabilities to promote effective compliance with and implementation and enforcement of their responsibilities under international law;

19. *Further calls upon* States and international institutions, including through bilateral, regional and global cooperation programmes, technical partnerships and fellowships, to develop and strengthen capacity-building activities in and to transfer to developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, on mutually agreed terms, and taking into account the Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, environmentally sound technologies to study and minimize the impacts of ocean acidification;

20. *Notes* the international scientific cooperation within the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network and its efforts in building scientific capacity for ocean acidification monitoring, research and experimentation, including through the Pier2Peer scientific mentorship programme;

21. *Emphasizes* the need to focus on strengthening South-South cooperation as an additional way to build capacity and as a cooperative mechanism to further enable countries to set their own priorities and needs and to foster actions to implement such cooperation;

22. *Recognizes with appreciation* the important contribution to capacity-building in the field of the law of the sea by the Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy, a cooperative undertaking by the Center for Oceans Law and Policy of the University of Virginia School of Law, the Aegean Institute of the Law of the Sea and Maritime Law, the Law of the Sea Institute of Iceland, the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, the Netherlands Institute for the Law of the Sea of Utrecht University and the Centre for International Law of the National University of Singapore that offers a prominent three-week summer course annually in Rhodes, Greece, and has graduated 900 students from more than 120 countries;

23. *Also recognizes with appreciation* the important contribution to capacity-building in the field of the law of the sea by the Summer Academy of the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea;

24. *Further recognizes with appreciation* the important contribution of the Korea Maritime Institute to the trust fund to support the internship programmes at the

Tribunal since 2011 and its continued efforts to provide education and training for capacity-building of developing countries through the Yeosu Academy of the Law of the Sea programme;

25. *Notes* the holding of three sessions of the Summer Academy on the Continental Shelf in 2014, 2015 and 2016 in the Faroe Islands, organized by the University of the Faroe Islands;

26. *Recognizes* the importance of the work of the Malta-based International Maritime Law Institute of the International Maritime Organization, as a centre of education and training of specialists in maritime law, including government legal advisers and other high-level officials, mainly from developing States, confirms its effective capacity-building role in the field of international maritime law, shipping law and marine environmental law, and urges States, intergovernmental organizations and financial institutions to make voluntary financial contributions to the budget of the Institute which runs annually;

27. *Also recognizes* the importance of the World Maritime University of the International Maritime Organization as a centre of excellence for maritime education and research, confirms its effective capacity-building role in the field of maritime transportation, policy, administration, management, safety, security and environmental protection, as well as its role in the international exchange and transfer of knowledge, and urges States, intergovernmental organizations and other bodies to make voluntary financial contributions to the University's newly established Endowment Fund;

28. *Welcomes* ongoing activities for capacity-building so as to address maritime security and protection of the marine environment of developing States, and encourages States and international financial institutions to provide additional funding for capacity-building programmes, including for transfer of technology, including through the International Maritime Organization and other competent international organizations;

29. *Recognizes* the ongoing activities of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in coordinating capacity-building efforts to support developing States in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas, in particular through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative;[24]

30. *Also recognizes* the considerable need to provide sustained capacity-building assistance, including on financial and technical aspects, by relevant international organizations and donors to developing States, with a view to further strengthening their capacity to take effective measures against the multiple facets of international criminal activities at sea, in line with the relevant international instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto;[25]

31. *Further recognizes* the need to build the capacity of developing States to raise awareness of and support the implementation of improved waste management practices, noting the particular vulnerability of small island developing States to the impact of marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities and marine debris and nutrient pollution;[26]

[24] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/12/29, sect. I, and Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity decision XII/23, paras. 19–22.

[25] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

[26] See 2012 Guidelines for the Development of a Regional Reception Facilities Plan, International Maritime Organization, resolution MEPC.221(63).

32. *Recognizes* the importance of assisting developing States, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, in implementing the Convention, urges States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons, to make voluntary financial or other contributions to the trust funds, as referred to in resolutions 55/7, 57/141 and 64/71 of 4 December 2009, established for this purpose, and expresses its appreciation to those that have contributed;[27]

33. *Acknowledges* the importance of capacity-building for developing States, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, for the protection of the marine environment and the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources;

34. *Recognizes* that promoting the voluntary transfer of technology is an essential aspect of building capacity in marine science;

35. *Encourages* States to use the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, and recalls the important role of the secretariat of that Commission in the implementation and promotion of the Criteria and Guidelines;

36. *Also encourages* States to consider additional opportunities for capacity-building at the regional level;

37. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Tribunal in holding regional workshops;

38. *Notes with satisfaction* the publication of the first edition of the *Global Ocean Science Report* by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission;

39. *Notes with appreciation* the adoption by the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the new Capacity Development Strategy (2015–2021), which takes into account that capacity development is a fundamental tenet of the mission of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission;

40. *Expresses its appreciation* for the contribution of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission to capacity-building through its Ocean Teacher Academy training system, which has provided training in ocean data and information management, and notes the setting up of the Ocean Teacher Global Academy, operating through a network of regional training centres, which builds capacity and promotes expertise available in developing countries;

41. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission at its twenty-ninth session of the Group of Experts on Capacity Development;

42. *Also welcomes* the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, within its mandate, reiterated by member States at its fourteenth session, held in Nairobi from 17 to 22 July 2016, to continue to assist developing countries, upon request, in enhancing the sustainability and climate resilience of their transport systems and infrastructure, including coastal transport infrastructure;

43. *Notes with satisfaction* the efforts of the Division to compile information on capacity-building initiatives, requests the Secretary-General to continue to regularly update such information provided by States, international organizations and donor agencies and include it in his annual report to the General Assembly, invites States, international organizations and donor agencies to submit such information to

[27] See A/70/74/Add.1, para. 137.

the Secretary-General for this purpose, and requests the Division to post the information on capacity-building initiatives from the annual report of the Secretary-General on the website of the Division in an easily accessible manner so as to facilitate the matching of capacity-building needs with opportunities;

44. *Calls upon* States to continue to assist developing States, and especially the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, at the bilateral and, where appropriate, multilateral levels, in the preparation of submissions to the Commission regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, including the assessment of the nature and extent of the continental shelf of a coastal State, and recalls that coastal States can make requests to the Commission for scientific and technical advice in the preparation of data for their submissions, in accordance with article 3 of annex II to the Convention;

45. *Recognizes* the importance of the trust fund established pursuant to resolution 55/7 for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and compliance with article 76 of the Convention, and of providing assistance to developing States to meet the travel and daily subsistence allowance costs associated with meeting with the Commission when their submissions are being examined and upon the invitation of the Commission, in accordance with paragraph 31 of the terms of reference, guidelines and rules of the trust fund;[28]

46. *Calls upon* the Division to continue to disseminate information on relevant procedures related to the trust fund established for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission and to continue its dialogue with potential beneficiaries with a view to providing financial support to developing countries for activities to facilitate their submissions in accordance with the requirements of article 76 of the Convention and with the Rules of Procedure[29] and the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission[30] and to defray the costs of travel and daily subsistence allowance for delegates to participate in meetings with the Commission upon its invitation;

47. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with States and relevant international organizations and institutions, to continue to support training and other activities to assist developing States in the preparation and presentation of their submissions to the Commission;

48. *Recognizes with appreciation* the contribution of the Division to capacity-building activities at the national and regional levels, in particular the work of the Division in promoting wider appreciation of the Convention and in assisting with its implementation, through the provision of information, advice and assistance to States and intergovernmental organizations, and recognizes in particular the continued delivery of a programme of assistance to the Government of Somalia under a project funded by the Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, including two strategic fellowships, as well as the Division's support for Member State implementation of the relevant parts of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[31]

49. *Notes* the partnership between the Division and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission on a training programme on marine scientific research

[28] Resolution 55/7, annex II, resolution 58/240, annex, and resolution 70/235, annex.
[29] CLCS/40/Rev.1.
[30] CLCS/11, CLCS/11/Corr.1, CLCS/11/Add.1 and CLCS/11/Add.1/Corr.1.
[31] Resolution 70/1.

under the Convention, and encourages States, relevant international organizations and other donors to consider supporting the initiative;

50. *Invites* States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to support the capacity-building activities of the Division, including by making earmarked voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General for the Office of Legal Affairs to support the promotion of international law, and expresses its appreciation to those that have contributed;

51. *Recognizes with appreciation* the important contribution to the capacity-building of developing countries and the promotion of the law of the sea made by the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, which was established by the General Assembly in 1981 in honour of the first President of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and which, relying on its network of 17 host institutions, has awarded to date 31 fellowships to individuals from 26 Member States, and recalls in this regard the provisions of its resolutions on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law;[12]

52. *Expresses its appreciation* to States that have made contributions to the voluntary trust fund for the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, notes that there are insufficient funds available to grant a regular award for placement of a fellow in the Division in 2019, expresses its commitment to further promote the importance of the Fellowship, and urges States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make voluntary financial contributions in support of the Fellowship so that a regular award may be granted for 2019 and beyond;

53. *Recognizes with appreciation* the important contribution of the United Nations-Nippon Foundation of Japan Fellowship Programme, which has awarded 142 fellowships to individuals from 76 Member States since 2004, to human resources development for developing Member States in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea and related disciplines, as well as the fostering of global interlinkages and continuing capacity development through the alumni programme, which held an Alumni Meeting in 2017 in New York in conjunction with the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and also recognizes with appreciation the provision of a fellowship under the Strategic Award of the United Nations-Nippon Foundation of Japan Fellowship Programme in 2017;

54. *Encourages* competent international organizations, the United Nations Development Programme and international financial institutions and funds to consider expanding their programmes within their respective fields of competence for assistance to developing countries and to coordinate their efforts, and recognizes the funding available from the Global Environment Facility, as well as other funds allocated for projects relating to oceans;

[12] Resolutions 69/117, para. 9, 70/116, para. 8, 71/139, para. 7, and 72/115, paras. 7 and 8.

III
Meeting of States Parties

55. *Welcomes* the report of the twenty-seventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention;[7]

56. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene the twenty-eighth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention from 11 to 14 June 2018, with full conference services, including documentation, as required;

IV
Peaceful settlement of disputes

57. *Notes with satisfaction* the continued and significant contribution of the Tribunal to the settlement of disputes by peaceful means in accordance with Part XV of the Convention, and underlines the important role and authority of the Tribunal concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Part XI Agreement;

58. *Pays tribute* to the important and long-standing role of the International Court of Justice with regard to the peaceful settlement of disputes concerning the law of the sea;

59. *Notes* that States parties to an international agreement relating to the purposes of the Convention may submit to, inter alia, the Tribunal or the International Court of Justice any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of that agreement submitted in accordance with that agreement, and also notes the possibility, provided for in the Statutes of the Tribunal and the Court, to submit disputes to a chamber;

60. *Encourages* States Parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to consider making a written declaration, choosing from the means set out in article 287 of the Convention, for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Part XI Agreement, bearing in mind the comprehensive character of the dispute settlement mechanism provided for in Part XV of the Convention;

V
The Area

61. *Reiterates* the importance of the ongoing elaboration and standardization by the Authority, pursuant to article 145 of the Convention, of rules, regulations and procedures to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment, for, inter alia, the protection and conservation of the natural resources of the Area and for the prevention of damage to the flora and fauna of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from activities in the Area;

62. *Notes* that, as at 10 August 2017, the Authority had approved 29 plans of work for exploration for marine mineral resources in the Area;

63. *Notes with appreciation* the decision taken by the Council of the Authority at its twenty-third session, to approve an application for extension of an approved plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules, pursuant to section 1, paragraph 9, of the annex to the Part XI Agreement;[8]

64. *Welcomes* the progress of the work of the Authority on draft regulations for exploitation of mineral resources in the Area, takes note of the development of a

[8] See ISBA/23/C/15.

road map for adoption and approval of such regulations, and encourages the Authority to continue its work on the draft regulations as a matter of priority and to provide sufficient opportunities and time for substantive consideration and discussion of successive drafts;

65. *Notes* that all States Parties to the Convention and other stakeholders are invited to provide input on the draft regulations by 17 November 2017, and no later than 31 December 2017;[34]

66. *Recalls* the relevance of the advisory opinion on the responsibilities and obligations of States sponsoring persons and entities with respect to activities in the Area, issued by the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the Tribunal on 1 February 2011;[35]

67. *Recognizes* the importance of the responsibilities entrusted to the Authority by articles 143 and 145 of the Convention, which refer to marine scientific research and protection of the marine environment in the Area, respectively;

68. *Welcomes* the decision of the Assembly, at the twenty-third session of the Authority, in approving the final report on the first periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the Convention;[36]

69. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Assembly, in the context of the first periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the Convention, to request the Secretary-General of the Authority, in view of the importance of a long-term plan defining the strategic direction and aims of the Authority, to submit a draft strategic plan to the Assembly for consideration at its twenty-fourth session, in 2018, and to regularly inform member States on progress with respect to this plan;[37]

70. *Encourages* the Authority to continue its work towards the standardization of marine bathymetric information collected in the Area, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, including the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the International Hydrographic Organization, particularly under the Seabed 2030 project;[37]

71. *Notes* that a workshop dedicated to the review of the status of implementation of the environmental management plan for the Clarion-Clipperton Zone will be held during the first half of 2018, and encourages the Authority to make progress on the development of environmental management plans in other specific areas in the Area, in particular where there are currently exploration contracts, recalling paragraph 60 of resolution 70/235;

72. *Expresses its appreciation* to States that have made contributions to the voluntary trust fund established pursuant to the decision of the Authority at its eighth session[38] for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Legal and Technical Commission from developing countries and the members of the Finance Committee from developing countries in the meetings of the Commission and of the Committee, and to States that have made contributions to the endowment fund for marine scientific research in the Area established by the Authority at its twelfth session,[39] for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the conduct of collaborative marine scientific research in the Area, and encourages States to make additional contributions to these funds;

[34] See ISBA/23/C/12.
[35] See ISBA/17/A/9.
[36] See ISBA/23/A/13.
[37] See ISBA/23/A/2.
[38] ISBA/8/A/11.
[39] ISBA/12/A/11.

VI
Effective functioning of the Authority and the Tribunal

73. *Commends* the progress in the work of the Authority;

74. *Also commends* the work of the Tribunal since its establishment;

75. *Appeals* to all States Parties to the Convention to pay their assessed contributions to the Tribunal in full and on time, and also appeals to States Parties in arrears with their contributions to fulfil their obligations without delay;

76. *Expresses serious concern* about the number of States Parties to the Convention in arrears with their assessed contributions to the Authority, appeals to all States Parties to the Convention to pay their assessed contributions to the Authority in full and on time, and urges them to fulfil their obligations without delay, in particular those States whose exercise of voting rights has been suspended by virtue of article 184 of the Convention, and invites the Secretary-General of the Authority to continue his efforts to recover arrears, including bilateral efforts;

77. *Expresses concern* about the low attendance at the annual sessions of the Assembly of the Authority, notes that the Assembly has endorsed the revised schedule of meetings for 2018 and 2019, including two meetings of the Council of the Authority to be held in March and July 2018, respectively, welcomes the decision of the Assembly to request the Secretary-General of the Authority to establish a voluntary trust fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of members of the Council from developing States in its second annual meeting, and encourages member States, observers and other stakeholders to contribute financially to the voluntary trust fund;[40]

78. *Recognizes* the ongoing efforts of the Authority to organize sensitization seminars to promote awareness of its work, and notes in this regard the holding of the workshop entitled "Marine mineral resources of Africa's continental shelf and adjacent international seabed area: prospects for the sustainable development of Africa's maritime domain, in support of Africa's blue economy", in Kampala from 2 to 4 May 2017, and calls upon other States and regions to consider inviting the Authority to organize such seminars in order to promote wider participation by the international community in the exploration and exploitation of mineral resources in the Area;

79. *Calls upon* States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Tribunal[41] and to the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the Authority;[42]

80. *Emphasizes* the importance of the rules and staff regulations of the Tribunal in promoting the recruitment of a geographically representative staff in the Professional and higher categories, and welcomes the actions taken by the Tribunal in observance of those rules and regulations;

81. *Calls upon* coastal States that have not yet done so to deposit a copy of charts or lists of geographical coordinates showing the outer limit lines of the continental shelf with the Secretary-General of the Authority, as provided for in article 84, paragraph 2, of the Convention;

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[40] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2167, No. 37925.
[41] Ibid., vol. 2214, No. 39357.

VII
The continental shelf and the work of the Commission

82. *Recalls* that, in accordance with article 76, paragraph 8, of the Convention, information on the limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured shall be submitted by the coastal State to the Commission set up under annex II to the Convention on the basis of equitable geographical representation, that the Commission shall make recommendations to coastal States on matters related to the establishment of the outer limits of their continental shelf, and that the limits of the shelf established by a coastal State on the basis of these recommendations shall be final and binding;

83. *Also recalls* that, in accordance with article 77, paragraph 3, of the Convention, the rights of the coastal State over the continental shelf do not depend on occupation, effective or notional, or on any express proclamation;

84. *Notes with satisfaction* that a considerable number of States Parties to the Convention have submitted information to the Commission regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, in conformity with article 76 of the Convention and article 4 of annex II to the Convention, taking into account the decision of the eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention contained in SPLOS/72, paragraph (a);

85. *Also notes with satisfaction* that a considerable number of States Parties to the Convention have submitted to the Secretary-General, pursuant to the decision of the eighteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention,[42] preliminary information indicative of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles and a description of the status of preparation and intended date of submission in accordance with the requirements of article 76 of the Convention and with the Rules of Procedure and the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission, and notes with satisfaction that additional submissions referred to in preliminary information have been filed with the Commission;

86. *Further notes with satisfaction* the progress in the work of the Commission[43] and that it is giving current consideration to a number of submissions that have been made regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles;

87. *Takes note* of the 29 recommendations made by the Commission on the submissions of a number of coastal States, and welcomes the fact that summaries of recommendations are being made publicly available in accordance with paragraph 11.3 of annex III to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission;

88. *Notes* that the consideration by the Commission of submissions by coastal States in accordance with article 76 of and annex II to the Convention is without prejudice to the application of other parts of the Convention by States Parties;

89. *Also notes* the considerable number of submissions yet to be considered by the Commission and the demands that this places on its members and the secretariat as provided by the Division, and emphasizes the need to ensure that the Commission can perform its functions expeditiously, efficiently and effectively and maintain its high level of quality and expertise;

90. *Takes note with appreciation* of the decision of the Commission at its forty-fourth session to continue to extend the duration of its sessions for 2018 to three

[42] See SPLOS/183.

[43] See CLCS/98, CLCS/100 and CLCS/101.

sessions of seven weeks each, including plenary meetings,[64] and further notes the decision of the Commission to establish new subcommissions so that nine subcommissions would actively consider submissions;[65]

91. *Notes* that the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, in its decisions regarding the conditions of service of the members of the Commission,[66] reaffirmed the obligation of States under the Convention whose experts were serving on the Commission to defray the expenses of the experts they had nominated while the experts are in performance of Commission duties, including the provision of medical coverage, and urged those States to do their utmost to ensure the full participation of those experts in the work of the Commission, including the meetings of subcommissions, in accordance with the Convention;

92. *Also notes* the decision of the twenty-seventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention to continue the consideration of the conditions of service of the members of the Commission within the open-ended working group established by the twenty-third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention;[5]

93. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take appropriate measures, within overall existing resource levels, to further strengthen the capacity of the Division, serving as the secretariat of the Commission, in order to ensure enhanced support and assistance to the Commission and its subcommissions in their consideration of submissions, as required by paragraph 9 of annex III to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, in particular its human resources, taking into account the need for simultaneous work on several submissions;

94. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to provide all necessary secretariat services to the Commission in accordance with article 2, paragraph 5, of annex II to the Convention;

95. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate and timely measures to ensure secretariat services for the Commission and its subcommissions for the extended duration of time requested in the decisions of the twenty-first[17] and twenty-sixth[18] Meetings of States Parties to the Convention;

96. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, consequently, to continue to allocate appropriate and sufficient resources to the Division to provide adequate services and assistance to the Commission in view of the number of its working weeks;

97. *Expresses its appreciation* to States that have made contributions to the voluntary trust fund established pursuant to resolution 55/7 for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission,[28] and encourages States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make additional contributions to this fund;

98. *Also expresses its appreciation* to States that have made contributions to the voluntary trust fund established pursuant to resolution 55/7 for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission,[28] expresses its serious concern at the critical lack of funds in this trust fund, urges States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make additional contributions to it, and authorizes the use, as appropriate, of the trust fund, and in accordance with the purpose of its terms of reference, to defray the cost of the participation of the Chair

[64] See CLCS/100.

[65] See CLCS/80, CLCS/80/Corr.1, CLCS/83 and CLCS/83/Corr.1.

[66] SPLOS/276 and SPLOS/286.

of the Commission, when nominated by a developing country, in the Meetings of States Parties to the Convention;

99. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General, as an interim measure and subject to the availability of funds in the trust fund referred to in paragraph 98 above, following the allocation of the required funds to cover the costs of travel and daily subsistence allowance of the members of the Commission from developing States for the sessions of the Commission in 2018, to reimburse those members for the costs of medical travel insurance from that trust fund on a session-by-session basis and subject to a reasonable limit that the Secretary-General shall determine, based on the information regarding medical travel insurance available to him;

100. *Takes note* of the written information, provided by the Secretary-General in response to the request in paragraph 81 of resolution 69/245, on options for mechanisms to provide medical insurance coverage to members of the Commission, including costs, and the information provided by the Secretariat during the twenty-seventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, and expresses its intention to continue to consider these and other options and, if necessary, to further review the terms of reference for the trust fund established pursuant to resolution 55/7 for the purpose of facilitating the participation of members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission;

101. *Emphasizes* the continued need for members of the Commission to have suitable working space for their work at the sessions of the Commission and its subcommissions, recognizes, with regard to the long-term accommodation discussions, that, owing to its exceptional character, the Commission has special requirements for its working space, including the need for fit-for-purpose working space, adequate technical equipment and climate control, and needs to remain located within the same premises as the Division, and emphasizes that, in the context of any relocation of the Division or any change in its working space, full regard will be paid to these special requirements of the Commission;

102. *Approves* the convening by the Secretary-General of the forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions of the Commission, in New York, from 29 January to 16 March 2018, from 16 July to 31 August 2018 and from 15 October to 30 November 2018, respectively, with full conference services, including documentation, for the plenary parts of these sessions,[47] as well as any resumed sessions as may be required by the Commission, and requests the Secretary-General to make every effort to meet these requirements within overall existing resources;

103. *Welcomes* the convening of a half-day open meeting of the Commission on 10 March 2017, during its forty-third session, to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of its establishment;[48]

104. *Expresses its firm conviction* about the importance of the work of the Commission, carried out in accordance with the Convention as well as in accordance with its Rules of Procedure, including with respect to the participation of coastal States in relevant proceedings concerning their submissions, and recognizes the continued need for active interaction between coastal States and the Commission;

105. *Expresses its appreciation* to States that have exchanged views in order to increase understanding of issues, including expenditures involved, arising from the application of article 76 of the Convention, thus facilitating the preparation of

[47] From 5 to 9 February and from 5 to 9 March 2018 during the forty-sixth session, and from 6 to 10 August and from 27 to 31 August 2018 during the forty-seventh session.

[48] See CLCS/98.

submissions by States, in particular developing States, to the Commission, and encourages States to continue to exchange views;

106. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with Member States, to continue to support workshops or symposiums on scientific and technical aspects of the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, taking into account the need to strengthen capacity-building for developing countries in preparing their submissions;

VIII
Maritime safety and security and flag State implementation

107. *Encourages* States to ratify or accede to international agreements addressing the safety and security of navigation, as well as maritime labour, and to adopt the necessary measures consistent with the Convention and other relevant international instruments aimed at implementing and enforcing the rules contained in those agreements, and emphasizes the need for capacity-building for and assistance to developing States;

108. *Recognizes* that the legal regimes governing maritime safety and maritime security may have common and mutually reinforcing objectives that may be interrelated and could benefit from synergies, and encourages States to take this into account in their implementation;

109. *Emphasizes* the need for further efforts to promote a culture of safety and security in the shipping industry and to address the shortage of adequately trained personnel, and urges the establishment of more centres to provide the required education and training;

110. *Also emphasizes* that safety and security measures should be implemented in support of and with minimal negative effects on seafarers and fishers, especially in relation to their working conditions, and welcomes the ongoing cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Labour Organization in relation to decent work and employment in fisheries and aquaculture and on child labour in fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the work that has been conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Labour Organization on the issue of trafficking in persons and forced labour on fishing vessels;

111. *Welcomes* the consideration by the International Maritime Organization of the fair treatment of seafarers, and recalls the adoption by the Organization on 4 December 2013 of resolution A.1090(28) on the fair treatment of crew members in respect of shore leave and access to shore-side facilities;

112. *Notes* the theme for the 2017 World Maritime Day, "Connecting ships, ports and people";

113. *Invites* States that have not yet done so to become parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978,[49] as amended, and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995;

114. *Acknowledges* the entry into force of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185)[50] and the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) of the International Labour Organization, encourages States that have not yet done so to

[49] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1361, No. 23001.
[50] Ibid., vol. 2304, No. 41069.

consider becoming parties to them as well as to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, calls upon States to effectively implement their obligations under those instruments, and emphasizes the need to provide to States, at their request, technical cooperation and assistance in this regard;

115. *Invites* States to ratify or accede to the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977;

116. *Welcomes* ongoing cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization and the International Labour Organization relating to the safety of fishers and fishing vessels, and underlines the urgent need for continued work in that area;

117. *Notes* the adoption by the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization of resolution A.1078(28) of 4 December 2013 which revised the International Maritime Organization ship identification number scheme to allow its voluntary application to seagoing ships of 100 gross tonnage and above, including fishing vessels;

118. *Recalls* that all actions taken to combat threats to maritime security must be in accordance with international law, including the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention;

119. *Recognizes* the crucial role of international cooperation at the global, regional, subregional and bilateral levels in combating, in accordance with international law, threats to maritime security, including piracy, armed robbery against ships at sea and terrorist acts against shipping, offshore installations and other maritime interests, through bilateral and multilateral instruments and mechanisms aimed at monitoring, preventing and responding to such threats, the enhanced sharing of information among States relevant to the detection, prevention and suppression of such threats, and the prosecution of offenders with due regard to national legislation, and the need for sustained capacity-building to support such objectives, and in this regard welcomes the Work Plan for Maritime Security 2015–2017, which was reaffirmed at the twenty-fourth Regional Forum of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, held in Manila on 7 August 2017;

120. *Welcomes* the adoption by the African Union Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa of the Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa;

121. *Acknowledges* the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in promoting international cooperation and strengthening capacity to combat the problem of transnational organized crime committed at sea;

122. *Notes with concern* that piracy and armed robbery at sea affect a wide range of vessels engaged in maritime activities, and expresses grave concern at the threats posed by piracy and armed robbery at sea to the safety and welfare of seafarers and other persons;

123. *Emphasizes* the importance of promptly reporting incidents to enable accurate information on the scope of the problem of piracy and armed robbery against ships at sea and, in the case of armed robbery against ships at sea, by affected vessels to the coastal State, underlines the importance of effective information-sharing with States potentially affected by incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships at sea, notes with appreciation the important role of the International Maritime Organization and the important contribution of the Information Sharing Centre of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, based in Singapore, which aspires to be recognized as a centre of

excellence within its purpose and mandate, and notes also the Maritime Domain Awareness for Trade – Gulf of Guinea mechanism and the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations covering the high-risk area;

124. *Urges* all States, in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization, to actively combat piracy and armed robbery at sea by adopting measures, including those relating to assistance with capacity-building through training of seafarers, port staff and enforcement personnel in the prevention, reporting and investigation of incidents, by bringing the alleged perpetrators to justice, in accordance with international law, and by adopting national legislation, as well as by providing enforcement vessels and equipment and guarding against fraudulent ship registration;

125. *Encourages* States to ensure effective implementation of international law applicable to combating piracy, as reflected in the Convention, calls upon States to take appropriate steps under their national law to facilitate, in accordance with international law, the apprehension and prosecution of those who are alleged to have committed acts of piracy, including the financing or facilitation of such acts, also taking into account other relevant instruments that are consistent with the Convention, and encourages States to cooperate, as appropriate, with a view to developing their national legislation in this regard;

126. *Invites* all States, the International Maritime Organization, the International Labour Organization and other relevant international organizations and agencies to adopt or recommend, as appropriate, measures to protect the interest and welfare of seafarers and fishers who are victims of pirates, after their release from captivity, including their post-incident care and reintegration into society;

127. *Notes* the ongoing cooperation between the International Maritime Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Division with respect to the compilation of national legislation on piracy, also notes that copies of national legislation received by the Secretariat have been placed on the website of the Division, and encourages the aforementioned bodies to further cooperate with the view to assisting Member States, upon request, in developing their national laws on piracy;

128. *Recognizes* continued national, bilateral and trilateral initiatives, as well as regional cooperative mechanisms, in accordance with international law, to address piracy, including the financing or facilitation of acts of piracy, and armed robbery at sea, and calls upon States to give immediate attention to adopting, concluding and implementing cooperation agreements at the regional level on combating piracy and armed robbery against ships;

129. *Expresses serious concern* at the inhuman conditions hostages taken at sea face in captivity and also the adverse impact on their families, calls for the immediate release of all hostages taken at sea, and stresses the importance of cooperation among Member States on the issue of hostage-taking at sea;

130. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the ongoing work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Hostage Support Programme, funded by the Board of the Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, in securing the release of seafarers held hostage off the coast of Somalia;[31]

131. *Also welcomes* the recent achievements against piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia resulting from efforts at the global and regional levels, which have resulted in a steady decline in pirate attacks as well as hijackings since 2011, in that regard continues to be gravely concerned by the ongoing threat that

[31] See S/2013/623, paras. 11–13, and S/2014/740, para. 10.

piracy and armed robbery at sea continue to pose in the region off the coast of Somalia, notes the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2383 (2017) of 7 November 2017, as well as the statements by the President of the Council of 25 August 2010[52] and of 19 November 2012,[53] also notes that the authorization in resolution 2383 (2017) and relevant resolutions[54] apply only with respect to the situation in Somalia and shall not affect the rights, obligations or responsibilities of Member States under international law, including any rights or obligations under the Convention, with respect to any other situation, and underscores, in particular, that they shall not be considered as establishing customary international law;

132. *Notes* the continued efforts within the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, following the adoption of Security Council resolution 1851 (2008) of 16 December 2008, and commends the contributions of all States in the efforts to fight piracy off the coast of Somalia;

133. *Takes note* of the outcome of the London Conference on Somalia held on 11 May 2017, and the commitment of the Federal Government of Somalia and federal member states of Somalia to developing their maritime security capabilities;

134. *Recognizes* the primary responsibility of the Federal Government of Somalia in combating piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, acknowledges the importance of a comprehensive and sustainable settlement of the situation in Somalia, and emphasizes the need to address the underlying causes of piracy and to assist Somalia and States in the region, at their request, in strengthening institutional capacity to fight piracy and tackle its underlying causes, including the financing or facilitation of acts of piracy, and armed robbery against ships off the coast of Somalia and to bring to justice those involved in such acts;

135. *Notes* the International Maritime Organization guidelines to assist in the investigation of the crimes of piracy and armed robbery against ships, revised interim guidance to shipowners, ship operators and shipmasters on the use of privately contracted armed security personnel on board ships in the high-risk area, revised interim recommendations for flag States regarding the use of privately contracted armed security personnel on board ships in the high-risk area, revised interim recommendations for port and coastal States regarding the use of privately contracted armed security personnel on board ships in the high-risk area, interim guidance to private maritime security companies providing privately contracted armed security personnel on board ships in the high-risk area, and interim guidance for flag States on measures to prevent and mitigate Somalia-based piracy;

136. *Welcomes* the successful prosecution of piracy cases in Belgium, India, Mauritius and Seychelles during the past year, as well as the successful cooperation between China and Somalia in transferring suspected pirates in May 2017, while noting with concern that the continuing limited capacity and domestic legislation to facilitate the custody and prosecution of suspected pirates after their capture has hindered more robust international action against pirates off the coast of Somalia;

137. *Encourages* States to ensure that ships flying their flag apply ship security measures approved in accordance with national and international law;

138. *Notes* the efforts made by the shipping industry to cooperate with the efforts by States regarding piracy off the coast of Somalia, in particular in assisting ships that navigate in that area, and recalls the adoption on 30 November 2011 by the

[52] S/PRST/2010/16, see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2010–31 July 2011* (S/INF/66).

[53] S/PRST/2012/24, see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2012–31 July 2013* (S/INF/68).

[54] See Security Council resolution 2316 (2016), first preambular paragraph.

Assembly of the International Maritime Organization of resolution A.1044(27) on piracy and armed robbery against ships in waters off the coast of Somalia;

139. *Also notes* the continued implementation of the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden (Djibouti Code of Conduct), adopted on 29 January 2009 under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization, in the four thematic areas of information-sharing, training, national legislation and capacity-building, and notes the adoption in January 2017 of the Jeddah Amendment to the Djibouti Code of Conduct;

140. *Expresses its deep concern* at the continuing incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, in particular violence against innocent crew members of vessels, notes the adoption by the Security Council of resolutions 2018 (2011) of 31 October 2011 and 2039 (2012) of 29 February 2012 and the statement by the President of the Council of 25 April 2016,[55] supports the recent efforts to address this problem at the global and regional levels, recalls the primary role of States in the region to counter the threat and address the underlying causes of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea, welcomes the adoption in Yaoundé on 25 June 2013 of the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships, and Illegal Maritime Activity in West and Central Africa, and calls upon States in the region to implement the Code of Conduct as soon as possible and consistent with international law, in particular the Convention;

141. *Urges* States to ensure the full implementation of resolution A.1069(28) of the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization on prevention and suppression of piracy, armed robbery against ships and illicit maritime activity in the Gulf of Guinea;

142. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation[56] and the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf,[56] invites States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the 2005 Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation[57] and the 2005 Protocol to the 1988 Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf,[58] and urges States parties to take appropriate measures to ensure the effective implementation of those instruments through the adoption of legislation, where appropriate;

143. *Calls upon* States to effectively implement the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code and the amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea,[59] and to work with the International Maritime Organization to promote safe and secure shipping while ensuring freedom of navigation;

144. *Urges* all States, in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization, to improve the protection of offshore installations by adopting measures related to the prevention, reporting and investigation of acts of violence against installations, in accordance with international law, and by implementing such measures through national legislation to ensure proper and adequate enforcement;

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[55] S/PRST/2016/4

[56] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1678, No. 29004

[57] International Maritime Organization, document LEG/CONF.15/21

[58] International Maritime Organization, document LEG/CONF.15/22

[59] International Maritime Organization, documents SOLAS/CONF.5/32 and 34, and document MSC 81/25/Add.1, annex 2, resolution MSC.202(81), introducing the long-range identification and tracking of ships system

145. *Emphasizes* the progress in regional cooperation, including the efforts of littoral States, on the enhancement of safety, security and environmental protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, and the effective functioning of the Cooperative Mechanism on Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (the Cooperative Mechanism) to promote dialogue and facilitate close cooperation between the littoral States, user States, shipping industries and other stakeholders in line with article 43 of the Convention, notes with appreciation the convening of the tenth Cooperation Forum, in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, on 2 and 3 October 2017, the tenth Project Coordination Committee Meeting, in Kota Kinabalu on 4 October 2017, the forty-second Tripartite Technical Experts Group Meeting, in Kota Kinabalu on 5 and 6 October 2017, and the eighteenth and nineteenth Aids to Navigation Fund Committee Meetings, in Singapore, on 11 and 12 April 2017 and 14 and 15 September 2017, respectively, the events being key pillars of the Cooperative Mechanism, also notes with appreciation the important role of the Information Sharing Centre of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, based in Singapore, and calls upon States to give immediate attention to adopting, concluding and implementing cooperation agreements at the regional level;

146. *Recognizes* that some transnational organized criminal activities threaten legitimate uses of the oceans and endanger the lives of people at sea, as well as the livelihoods and security of coastal communities;

147. *Notes* that transnational organized criminal activities are diverse and may be interrelated in some cases and that criminal organizations are adaptive and take advantage of the vulnerabilities of States, in particular coastal and small island developing States in transit areas, and calls upon States and relevant intergovernmental organizations to increase cooperation and coordination at all levels to detect and suppress the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and illicit trafficking in firearms, in accordance with international law;

148. *Recognizes* the importance of enhancing international cooperation at all levels to fight transnational organized criminal activities, including illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, within the scope of the United Nations instruments against illicit drug trafficking, as well as the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and illicit trafficking in firearms and criminal activities at sea falling within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;[60]

149. *Encourages* States to cooperate at the bilateral, regional and global levels to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora where such trafficking occurs via maritime routes, through, inter alia, the use of applicable international legal instruments as appropriate, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption[61] and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,[62] and reiterates its call upon Member States expressed in its resolution 71/326 of 11 September 2017 to make illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora a serious crime, in accordance with their national legislation and as defined in article 2 (b) and article 3, paragraph 1 (b), of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in order to ensure that, where the offence is transnational in nature and involves an organized criminal group, effective international cooperation can be

[60] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.
[61] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.
[62] Ibid., vol. 993, No. 14537.

afforded under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to prevent and combat transnational organized crime;

150. *Notes with grave concern* the recent proliferation of, and endangerment of lives through, the smuggling of migrants by sea, underscores the necessity to address such situations in accordance with applicable international law, and encourages States, acting nationally or through relevant global or regional organizations, as appropriate, to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to flag, port and coastal States, upon request, to enhance their capabilities to prevent smuggling of migrants and human trafficking by sea;

151. *Calls upon* States, in that context, to take measures in accordance with relevant international obligations to prevent and combat all forms of trafficking in persons, to identify victims of human trafficking, including among migrant flows, and to provide trafficking victims with appropriate protection and assistance, according to their national law and policy;

152. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[63] the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[64] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[65] and to take appropriate measures to ensure their effective implementation;

153. *Calls upon* States to ensure freedom of navigation, the safety of navigation and the rights of transit passage, archipelagic sea lanes passage and innocent passage in accordance with international law, in particular the Convention;

154. *Welcomes* the work of the International Maritime Organization relating to the protection of shipping lanes of strategic importance and significance, and in particular in enhancing safety, security and environmental protection in straits used for international navigation, and calls upon that Organization, States bordering straits and user States to continue their cooperation to keep such straits safe, secure and environmentally protected and open to international navigation at all times, consistent with international law, in particular the Convention;

155. *Calls upon* user States and States bordering straits used for international navigation to continue to cooperate by agreement on matters relating to navigational safety, including safety aids for navigation, and the prevention, reduction and control of pollution from ships, and welcomes developments in this regard;

156. *Calls upon* States that have accepted the amendments to regulation XI-1/6 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974,[66] to implement the Code of International Standards and Recommended Practices for a Safety Investigation into a Marine Casualty or Marine Incident,[67] which took effect on 1 January 2010, and, in particular, to comply with the mandatory submission of a marine safety investigation report to the International Maritime Organization for

[63] Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.
[64] Ibid., vol. 2326, No. 39574.
[65] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.
[66] International Maritime Organization, document MSC 84/24/Add.1, annex 3, resolution MSC.257(84).
[67] International Maritime Organization, document MSC 84/24/Add.1, annex 1, resolution MSC.255(84).

every marine safety investigation conducted into a very serious marine casualty to identify its facts and develop knowledge and risk-based recommendations;

157. *Notes* the adoption by the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization at its twenty-eighth session of the resolution on guidelines on the preservation and collection of evidence following an allegation of a serious crime having taken place on board a ship or following a report of a missing person from a ship, and pastoral and medical care of persons affected;[68]

158. *Recognizes* the important work of the International Hydrographic Organization, calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider becoming members of that Organization, encourages all its members to actively consider, in accordance with applicable rules and procedures, applications of States that wish to become members of that Organization, and urges all States to work with that Organization to increase the coverage of hydrographic information on a global basis to enhance capacity-building and technical assistance and to promote safe navigation, particularly through the production and use of accurate electronic navigational charts, especially in areas used for international navigation, in ports and where there are vulnerable or protected marine areas;

159. *Also recognizes* the importance of navigational warning services based on marine meteorological data for the safety of ships and lives at sea and the optimization of navigation routes, and notes the collaboration between the World Meteorological Organization and the International Maritime Organization for the enhancement of these services and their extension to the Arctic region;

160. *Encourages* States to continue their efforts in the implementation of all areas of the Action Plan for the Safety of Transport of Radioactive Material, approved by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency in March 2004;

161. *Notes* that cessation of the transport of radioactive materials through the regions of small island developing States is an ultimate desired goal of small island developing States and some other countries, and recognizes the right of freedom of navigation in accordance with international law; that States should maintain dialogue and consultation, in particular under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Maritime Organization, with the aim of improved mutual understanding, confidence-building and enhanced communication in relation to the safe maritime transport of radioactive materials; that States involved in the transport of such materials are urged to continue to engage in dialogue with small island developing States and other States to address their concerns; and that these concerns include the further development and strengthening, within the appropriate forums, of international regulatory regimes to enhance safety, disclosure, liability, security and compensation in relation to such transport;

162. *Acknowledges*, in the context of paragraph 161 above, the potential environmental and economic impacts of maritime incidents and accidents on coastal States, in particular those related to the transport of radioactive materials, and emphasizes the importance of effective liability regimes in that regard;

163. *Encourages* States to draw up plans and to establish procedures to implement the Guidelines on Places of Refuge for Ships in Need of Assistance adopted by the International Maritime Organization on 5 December 2003;[69]

[68] International Maritime Organization, Assembly resolution A.1091(28).

[69] International Maritime Organization, Assembly resolution A.949(23).

164. *Invites* States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007;[70]

165. *Requests* States to take appropriate measures with regard to ships flying their flag or of their registry to address hazards that may be caused by wrecks and drifting or sunken cargo to navigation or the marine environment;

166. *Calls upon* States to ensure that masters on ships flying their flag take the steps required by relevant instruments[71] to provide assistance to persons in distress at sea, and urges States to cooperate and to take all measures necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the amendments to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue[72] and to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea[73] relating to the delivery of persons rescued at sea to a place of safety, as well as of the associated Guidelines on the Treatment of Persons Rescued at Sea;[74]

167. *Recognizes* that all States must fulfil their search and rescue responsibilities in accordance with international law, including the Convention, reaffirms the ongoing need for the International Maritime Organization and other relevant organizations to assist, in particular, developing States both to increase and improve their search and rescue capabilities, including, as appropriate, through the establishment of additional rescue coordination centres and regional sub-centres, and to take effective action to address, to the extent feasible, the issue of unseaworthy ships and small craft within their national jurisdiction, and emphasizes in this regard the importance of cooperation for these purposes, including within the framework of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979;[75]

168. *Notes* the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant actors in relation to disembarkation of persons rescued at sea, notes in this regard the need to implement all relevant and applicable international instruments and the importance of cooperation among States as provided for in those instruments, and underlines in particular the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement in accordance with applicable international law;

169. *Invites* States to implement the Revised Guidelines on the Prevention of Access by Stowaways and the Allocation of Responsibilities to Seek the Successful Resolution of Stowaway Cases adopted by the International Maritime Organization on 2 December 2010;[76]

170. *Calls upon* States to continue to cooperate in developing comprehensive approaches to international migration and development, including through dialogue on all their aspects;

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[70] International Maritime Organization, document LEG/CONF.16/19.

[71] Convention on International Civil Aviation, 1944, annex 12; International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974; International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, as amended; United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982; and International Convention on Salvage, 1989.

[72] International Maritime Organization, document MSC 78/26/Add.1, annex 5, resolution MSC.155(78).

[73] International Maritime Organization, document MSC 78/26/Add.1, annex 3, resolution MSC.153(78).

[74] International Maritime Organization, document MSC 78/26/Add.2, annex 34, resolution MSC.167(78).

[75] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1405, No. 23489.

[76] International Maritime Organization, document MSC 88/26/Add.1, annex 6, resolution MSC.312(88).

171. *Also calls upon* States to take measures to protect fibre-optic submarine cables and to fully address issues relating to these cables, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the Convention;

172. *Encourages* greater dialogue and cooperation among States and the relevant regional and global organizations through workshops and seminars on the protection and maintenance of fibre-optic submarine cables to promote the security of such critical communications infrastructure;

173. *Also encourages* the adoption by States of laws and regulations addressing the breaking or injury of submarine cables or pipelines beneath the high seas done wilfully or through culpable negligence by a ship flying its flag or by a person subject to its jurisdiction, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the Convention;

174. *Affirms* the importance of maintenance, including the repair, of submarine cables, undertaken in conformity with international law, as reflected in the Convention;

175. *Reaffirms* that flag, port and coastal States all bear responsibility for ensuring the effective implementation and enforcement of international instruments relating to maritime security and safety, in accordance with international law, in particular the Convention, and that flag States have primary responsibility that requires further strengthening, including through increased transparency of ownership of vessels and the monitoring of organizations authorized to carry out surveys and issue certificates on their behalf, taking into account the entry into force of the Code for Recognized Organizations on 1 January 2015;[77]

176. *Urges* flag States without an effective maritime administration and appropriate legal frameworks to establish or enhance the necessary infrastructure, legislative and enforcement capabilities to ensure effective compliance with and implementation and enforcement of their responsibilities under international law, in particular the Convention, and, until such action is taken, to consider declining the granting of the right to fly their flag to new vessels, suspending their registry or not opening a registry, and calls upon flag and port States to take all measures consistent with international law necessary to prevent the operation of substandard vessels;

177. *Recognizes* that international shipping rules and standards adopted by the International Maritime Organization in respect of maritime safety, efficiency of navigation and the prevention and control of marine pollution, complemented by best practices of the shipping industry, have led to a significant reduction in maritime accidents and pollution incidents;

178. *Notes* that audits of Member States under the International Maritime Organization Member State Audit Scheme became mandatory in January 2016 under nine mandatory International Maritime Organization instruments and are to be carried out in accordance with the Framework and the Procedures for the International Maritime Organization Member State Audit Scheme and using the International Maritime Organization Instruments Implementation Code (III Code);[78]

179. *Welcomes* the adoption by the International Maritime Organization of the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code), under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, as amended,[79] and encourages States and competent

[77] International Maritime Organization, resolutions MSC.349(92) and MEPC.237(65).

[78] See International Maritime Organization, Assembly resolutions A.1018(26), A.1067(28), A.1068(28) and A.1070(28).

[79] International Maritime Organization, document MEPC 62/24/Add.1, annex 19, resolution

international organizations and bodies to support the effective implementation of the requirements of the Polar Code, which entered into force on 1 January 2017,[50]

180. *Notes* the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization on matters related to passenger ship safety in light of recent accidents, and encourages States and competent international organizations and bodies to support continued efforts, including technical cooperation activities, to improve passenger ship safety;

181. *Recognizes* that maritime safety can also be improved through effective port State control, the strengthening of regional arrangements and increased coordination and cooperation among them and increased transparency and information-sharing, making ample use of information systems, such as the International Maritime Organization Global Integrated Shipping Information System,[51] including among safety and security sectors;

182. *Encourages* flag States to take appropriate measures sufficient to achieve or maintain recognition by intergovernmental arrangements that recognize satisfactory flag State performance, including, as appropriate, satisfactory port State control examination results on a sustained basis, with a view to improving quality shipping and furthering flag State implementation of relevant instruments under the International Maritime Organization as well as relevant goals and objectives of the present resolution;

IX
Marine environment and marine resources

183. *Emphasizes once again* the importance of the implementation of Part XII of the Convention in order to protect and preserve the marine environment and its living marine resources against pollution and physical degradation, and calls upon all States to cooperate and take measures consistent with the Convention, directly or through competent international organizations, for the protection and preservation of the marine environment;

184. *Calls upon* States to implement the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" as adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 70/1, including Goal 14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and recalls that the Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible;

185. *Reiterates*, in this regard, the call made in the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action" for action to be taken on an urgent basis to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;[52]

186. *Recalls* that, in "The future we want", States noted with concern that the health of oceans and marine biodiversity are negatively affected by marine pollution, including marine debris, especially plastic, persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals and nitrogen-based compounds, from a number of marine and land-based sources, including shipping and land run-off, and that States committed to take action to reduce

MEPC.203(62).

[50] International Maritime Organization resolutions MSC.385(94) and MEPC.264(68) and related amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (resolution MSC.386(94)) and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (resolution MEPC.265(68)).

[51] International Maritime Organization, resolutions A.1029(26) and A.1074(28).

[52] Resolution 71/312, annex.

the incidence and impacts of such pollution on marine ecosystems, including through the effective implementation of relevant conventions adopted in the framework of the International Maritime Organization, and the follow-up of relevant initiatives such as the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,[83] as well as the adoption of coordinated strategies to this end, and that they further committed to take action, by 2025, based on collected scientific data, to achieve significant reductions in marine debris to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment;

187. *Encourages* States, in accordance with the commitment expressed in "The future we want" and based on collected scientific data, to take action by 2025 to achieve significant reductions in marine debris to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment;

188. *Notes* the discussions at the seventeenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, which focused on the theme "Marine debris, plastics and microplastics" and which, inter alia, highlighted that the size of the problem had increased exponentially since the topic of marine debris was addressed at the sixth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, in 2005, noted that marine debris in general, and plastics in particular, were some of the greatest environmental concerns of our time, along with climate change, ocean acidification and loss of biodiversity, discussed prevention and emphasized the need to address the issue, both downstream, through improved mechanisms for waste management, disposal and recycling, and upstream, by addressing consumption and production patterns, including through awareness-raising campaigns;[84]

189. *Also notes* the eighteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, which focused on the theme "The effects of climate change on oceans", during which delegations discussed, inter alia, the environmental, social and economic impacts on all States, in particular developing States, of the effects of climate change on the oceans, as well as the urgent need to address such effects and impacts, the need for international cooperation and coordination, including concerted and immediate action to combat the effects of climate change on the oceans, as well as the need for continued coordinated international focus in recognition that, owing to the interconnected nature of the oceans, ensuing impacts cannot be overcome by any single State and, in particular, in view of the grave implications for countries with low-lying coasts, some of whose very existence is under threat;[4]

190. *Further notes* the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, notes with concern its findings on the acidification of the oceans and the substantial risks to marine ecosystems, especially polar ecosystems, coral reefs, plankton and other organisms which have a calcareous exoskeleton, or a shell, like crustaceans, and the potentially detrimental consequences for fisheries and livelihoods, as well as the findings of the World Meteorological Organization contained in its annual *Greenhouse Gas Bulletin*, and notes its decision to foster collaboration with organizations and institutions that address the carbon budget of the ocean,[85] and in this regard encourages States and competent international organizations and other relevant institutions, individually and in cooperation, to urgently pursue further research on ocean acidification, especially programmes of observation and measurement, noting in particular the continued work under the Convention on Biological Diversity[86] and paragraphs 6 to 10 of decision XII/23 on marine and

[83] A/51/116, annex II.

[84] See A/71/204.

[85] World Meteorological Organization, Seventeenth World Meteorological Congress, Geneva, 25 May–12 June 2015, resolution 46 (Cg-17).

[86] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

coastal biodiversity, adopted at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, from 6 to 17 October 2014,[87] and to increase national, regional and global efforts to address levels of ocean acidity and the negative impact of such acidity on vulnerable marine ecosystems, particularly coral reefs;

191. *Notes with appreciation* that, at its forty-third session, held in Nairobi, from 11 to 13 April 2016, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change decided to prepare a special report on climate change and oceans and the cryosphere;[88]

192. *Recalls* that, in "The future we want", States called for support for initiatives that address ocean acidification and the impacts of climate change on marine and coastal ecosystems and resources and in this regard reiterated the need to work collectively to prevent further ocean acidification, as well as to enhance the resilience of marine ecosystems and of the communities whose livelihoods depend on them, and to support marine scientific research, monitoring and observation of ocean acidification and particularly vulnerable ecosystems, including through enhanced international cooperation in this regard;

193. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the holding in Monaco, from 15 to 17 October 2017, of the fourth International Workshop on the Socioeconomic Impacts of Ocean Acidification, on the theme "From sciences to solutions: ocean acidification impacts on ecosystem services – case study on coral reefs", organized by the Scientific Centre of Monaco and the Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre of the International Atomic Energy Agency;

194. *Notes with concern* the approximately 30 per cent increase in the acidity of ocean surface waters since the beginning of the industrial era[89] and the wide range of impacts associated with the continuing and alarming acidification of the world's oceans, and urges States to make significant efforts to tackle the causes of ocean acidification, recognizing countries' national circumstances and respective capabilities, and to further study and minimize its impacts, to enhance local, national, regional and global cooperation in this regard, including the sharing of relevant information and the development of worldwide capacity, including in developing countries, to measure ocean acidification, and to take steps to make marine ecosystems healthier and, as a result, more resilient, to the extent possible, to the impacts of ocean acidification;

195. *Recognizes* the attention paid to ocean acidification at the fourteenth and eighteenth meetings of the Informal Consultative Process, and commits itself to continue to pay attention to this important issue, including by taking into account the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment (the first World Ocean Assessment), the ongoing work of the Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre and the scientific cooperation fostered by the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network;

196. *Encourages* States, individually or in collaboration with relevant international organizations and bodies, to enhance their scientific activity to better understand the effects of climate change on the marine environment and marine biodiversity, support continued coordination of scientific work to study and minimize the impacts of ocean acidification and develop ways and means of adaptation, taking into account, as appropriate, the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches;

[87] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/12/29, sect. I.

[88] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, decision IPCC/XLIII-6.

[89] As stated in the 2013 report of Working Group I of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the physical science basis of climate change.

197. *Notes* the vital role that coastal blue carbon ecosystems, including mangroves, tidal marshes and seagrasses, play in climate adaptation and mitigation through carbon sequestration, and in increasing the resilience of coastal ecosystems to ocean acidification, and the range of other benefits that these ecosystems provide, including sustainable livelihoods, food security and biodiversity conservation, and coastal protection, and encourages States and relevant international institutions and organizations to work collaboratively to protect and restore coastal blue carbon ecosystems;

198. *Welcomes* the Paris Agreement[90] and its early entry into force on 4 November 2016, encourages all its parties to fully implement the Agreement and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[91] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, as appropriate, as soon as possible, and recognizes the importance of raising awareness of the adverse impact of climate change on the marine environment, marine biodiversity and sea level;

199. *Also welcomes*, in this regard, the convening of the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the second part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement in Bonn, Germany, from 6 to 17 November 2017;

200. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to become parties to international agreements addressing the protection and preservation of the marine environment and its living marine resources against the introduction of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens and marine pollution from all sources, including the dumping of wastes and other matter, and other forms of physical degradation, as well as agreements that provide for preparedness for, response to and cooperation on pollution incidents and that include provisions on liability and compensation for damage resulting from marine pollution, and to adopt the necessary measures consistent with international law, including the Convention, aimed at implementing and enforcing the rules contained in those agreements;

201. *Recalls* that, in "The future we want", States noted the significant threat that alien invasive species pose to marine ecosystems and resources and committed to implement measures to prevent the introduction and manage the adverse environmental impacts of alien invasive species, including, as appropriate, those adopted in the framework of the International Maritime Organization;

202. *Notes with satisfaction* that the conditions for the entry into force of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004,[92] have been fulfilled and that that Convention entered into force on 8 September 2017, and encourages States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to it;

203. *Encourages* States, directly or through competent international organizations, to consider the further development and application, as appropriate and consistent with international law, including the Convention, of environmental impact assessment processes covering planned activities under their jurisdiction or control that may cause substantial pollution of or significant and harmful changes to the marine environment, and also encourages the communication of the reports of the

[90] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

[91] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[92] International Maritime Organization, document BWM/CONF/36, annex.

results of such assessments to the competent international organizations in accordance with the Convention;

204. *Encourages* States that have not done so to become parties to regional seas conventions and the protocols thereto addressing the protection and preservation of the marine environment;

205. *Encourages* States, in accordance with international law, including the Convention and other relevant instruments, either bilaterally or regionally, to jointly develop and promote contingency plans for responding to pollution incidents, as well as other incidents that are likely to have significant adverse effects on the marine environment and biodiversity;

206. *Recognizes* the importance of improving understanding of the impact of climate change on oceans and seas, and recalls that, in "The future we want", States noted that sea-level rise and coastal erosion are serious threats for many coastal regions and islands, particularly in developing countries and in this regard called upon the international community to enhance its efforts to address these challenges;

207. *Notes with concern* the severe impacts on coastal communities of extreme weather events, such as tropical cyclones and associated storm surges, and encourages cooperative actions by relevant United Nations bodies and organizations, including the World Meteorological Organization, to assist States in improving forecasting of such events and its application in multi-hazard early warning systems and risk management;

208. *Also notes with concern* that the health of the oceans and marine biodiversity are negatively affected by marine debris, especially plastic, from land-based and marine sources, and notes that the "UNEP frontiers 2016 report" identifies microplastics as one of six key emerging environmental issues;

209. *Recognizes* the need for better understanding of the sources, amounts, pathways, distribution, trends, nature and impacts of marine debris, especially plastics and microplastics, and to examine possible measures and best available techniques and environmental practices to prevent its accumulation and minimize its levels in the marine environment, and welcomes in this regard the work conducted under the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection, led by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and its report entitled "Sources, fate and effects of microplastics in the marine environment – a global assessment", and the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on marine plastic debris and microplastics, which reviews best-available knowledge and experiences in this regard and gives recommendations for further steps to reduce plastic litter and microplastic in the oceans;[10]

210. *Calls upon* States to implement resolution 2/11 on marine plastic litter and microplastics, adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its second session, held in Nairobi from 23 to 27 May 2016;[11]

211. *Acknowledges* the request by the United Nations Environment Assembly in paragraph 21 of its resolution 2/11 to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in close cooperation with other relevant bodies and organizations, to undertake an assessment of the effectiveness of relevant international, regional and subregional governance strategies and approaches to combat marine plastic litter and microplastics, taking into consideration the relevant international, regional and subregional regulatory frameworks and identifying possible gaps and options for addressing them, including through regional cooperation and coordination,

[10] UNEP/EA.2/5

and to submit the assessment at the next session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, within available resources for this purpose;

212. *Welcomes* the activities of relevant United Nations bodies and organizations, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Maritime Organization and other intergovernmental organizations, to address the sources and impacts of marine debris, including through the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, as well as actions relating to marine debris taken under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals,[94] in particular the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to that Convention at its eleventh meeting of resolution 11.30 on management of marine debris, and notes the work of the International Whaling Commission on assessing the impacts of marine debris on cetaceans;

213. *Encourages* States to further develop partnerships with industry and civil society to raise awareness of the extent of the impact of marine debris on the biological diversity, health and productivity of the marine environment and consequent economic loss and to cooperate with other States, industry and civil society, as appropriate, on environmentally sound and cost-effective measures to prevent and reduce, as appropriate, marine debris and microplastics in the marine environment, including through strengthened cooperation under the Global Partnership on Marine Litter;

214. *Urges* States to integrate the issue of marine debris into national and, as appropriate, regional strategies dealing with waste management, especially in the coastal zone, ports and maritime industries, including recycling, reuse, reduction and disposal, to consider developing an integrated waste management infrastructure and to encourage the development of appropriate economic incentives with the aim of reducing marine debris to address this issue, including the development of cost-recovery systems that provide an incentive to use port reception facilities and discourage ships from discharging marine debris at sea, and support for measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution from any source, including land-based sources, such as community-based coastal and waterway clean-up and monitoring activities, and encourages States to cooperate regionally and subregionally to identify potential sources and coastal and oceanic locations where marine debris aggregates and to develop and implement joint prevention and recovery programmes for marine debris as well as to raise awareness of the issue of marine debris and the need to consider environmentally sound options for its removal;

215. *Notes* the holding of the Workshop on Best Practices Sharing in Marine Debris Management in Coastal Cities of the APEC Region, under the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation framework, in Xiamen, China, on 4 November 2017;

216. *Also notes* the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization to prevent pollution from ships, including through the designation of Special Areas under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, as amended,[95] and encourages the International Maritime Organization to continue working on the prevention of pollution from ships;

217. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Protocol of 1997 (annex VI – Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from

[94] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1651, No. 28395.

[95] International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, annex IV (Regulations for the prevention of pollution by sewage from ships) and annex V (Regulations for the prevention of pollution by garbage from ships).

Ships) to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, as amended;[56]

218. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to become parties to the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (the London Protocol);

219. *Notes* the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization and the resolution on International Maritime Organization policies and practices related to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from ships;[57]

220. *Urges* States to cooperate in correcting the shortfall in port waste reception facilities in accordance with the action plan to address the inadequacy of port waste reception facilities developed by the International Maritime Organization;

221. *Recognizes* that most of the pollution load of the oceans emanates from land-based activities and affects the most productive areas of the marine environment, and calls upon States, as a matter of priority, to implement the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and to take all appropriate measures to fulfil the commitments of the international community embodied in the Manila Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;[58]

222. *Encourages* States to take part in the Fourth Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, to be held in Indonesia in 2018;

223. *Expresses its concern* regarding the spreading of hypoxic dead zones and harmful algal blooms in oceans as a result of eutrophication fuelled by riverine run-off of fertilizers, sewage outfall and reactive nitrogen resulting from the burning of fossil fuels and resulting in serious consequences for ecosystem functioning, and calls upon States to enhance their efforts to reduce eutrophication, particularly by reducing total nutrient pollution from land-based sources and, to this effect, to continue to cooperate within the framework of relevant international organizations, in particular the Global Programme of Action and the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management and Global Wastewater Initiative, including through capacity-building initiatives and efforts to monitor, via the Global Ocean Observing System, stressors such as harmful algal blooms, areas of hypoxia, sargassum seaweed invasions and jellyfish blooms, to assess their possible linkage to eutrophication and their potential adverse impacts on the marine environment as well as on human health;

224. *Calls upon* all States to ensure that urban and coastal development projects and related land-reclamation activities are carried out in a responsible manner that protects the marine habitat and environment and mitigates the negative consequences of such activities;

225. *Welcomes* the entry into force on 16 August 2017 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury,[59] and encourages States that have not yet done so to take, as soon as possible, the domestic measures necessary to enable them to meet their obligations upon ratification and thereafter to ratify, accept, approve or accede to that Convention;

[56] International Maritime Organization, document MEPC 62/24/Add.1, annex 19, resolution MEPC.203(62).

[57] International Maritime Organization, Assembly resolution A.963(23).

[58] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP(DEPI)/GPA/IGR.3/6, annex.

[59] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/CONF/4, annex II.

226. *Also welcomes* the continued work of States, the United Nations Environment Programme and regional organizations in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, and encourages increased emphasis on the link between fresh water, the coastal zone and marine resources in the implementation of international development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[100] and of the time-bound targets in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[20] in particular the target on sanitation, and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;[101]

227. *Recalls* the resolution of the thirtieth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (the London Convention) and the third Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol, held from 27 to 31 October 2008, on the regulation of ocean fertilization,[102] in which the Contracting Parties agreed, inter alia, that the scope of the London Convention and Protocol includes ocean fertilization activities and that, given the present state of knowledge, ocean fertilization activities other than for legitimate scientific research should not be allowed, and that scientific research proposals should be assessed on a case-by-case basis using an assessment framework to be developed by the scientific groups under the London Convention and Protocol, and also agreed that, to this end, such other activities should be considered as contrary to the aims of the London Convention and Protocol and should not currently qualify for any exemption from the definition of dumping in article III, paragraph 1 (b), of the London Convention and article 1, paragraph 4.2, of the London Protocol;

228. *Also recalls* the resolution of the thirty-second Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention and the fifth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol, held from 11 to 15 October 2010, on the Assessment Framework for Scientific Research Involving Ocean Fertilization;[103]

229. *Notes* the continued work of the Contracting Parties to the London Convention and Protocol towards a global, transparent and effective control and regulatory mechanism for ocean fertilization activities and other activities that fall within the scope of the London Convention and Protocol and have the potential to cause harm to the marine environment, and notes the resolution adopted by the eighth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol, held from 14 to 18 October 2013, on the amendment to the London Protocol to regulate the placement of matter for ocean fertilization and other marine geoengineering activities;[104]

230. *Recalls* decision IX/16 C, adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Bonn, from 19 to 30 May 2008,[105] in which the Conference of the Parties, inter alia, bearing in mind the ongoing scientific and legal analysis occurring under the auspices of the London Convention and Protocol, requested parties and urged other Governments, in accordance with the precautionary approach, to ensure that ocean fertilization activities were not carried out until there was an adequate scientific basis on which to justify such activities, including an assessment of associated risks, and that a global,

[100] Resolution 55/2.

[101] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[102] International Maritime Organization, document LC 30/16, annex 6, resolution LC-LP.1 (2008).

[103] International Maritime Organization, document LC 32/15 and Corr.1, annex 5, resolution LC-LP.2 (2010).

[104] International Maritime Organization, document LC 35/15, annex 4, resolution LP.4(8).

[105] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/9/29, annex I.

transparent and effective control and regulatory mechanism was in place for those activities, with the exception of small-scale scientific research studies within coastal waters, and stated that such studies should be authorized only if justified by the need to gather specific scientific data, should be subject to a thorough prior assessment of the potential impacts of the research studies on the marine environment, should be strictly controlled and should not be used for generating and selling carbon offsets or for any other commercial purposes, and takes note of decision X/29, adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010,[106] in which the Conference of the Parties requested parties to implement decision IX/16 C;

231. *Also recalls* that, in "The future we want", States stressed their concern about the potential environmental impacts of ocean fertilization, recalled in this regard the decisions related to ocean fertilization adopted by the relevant intergovernmental bodies, and resolved to continue addressing ocean fertilization with utmost caution, consistent with the precautionary approach;

232. *Reaffirms* paragraph 119 of resolution 61/222 of 20 December 2006 regarding ecosystem approaches and oceans, including the proposed elements of an ecosystem approach, means to achieve implementation of an ecosystem approach and requirements for improved application of an ecosystem approach, and in this regard

(a) Notes that continued environmental degradation in many parts of the world and increasing competing demands require an urgent response and the setting of priorities for management actions aimed at conserving ecosystem integrity;

(b) Also notes that ecosystem approaches to ocean management should be focused on managing human activities in order to maintain and, where needed, restore ecosystem health to sustain goods and environmental services, provide social and economic benefits for food security, sustain livelihoods in support of international development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and conserve marine biodiversity;

(c) Recalls that States should be guided in the application of ecosystem approaches by a number of existing instruments, in particular the Convention, which sets out the legal framework for all activities in the oceans and seas, and its implementing Agreements, as well as other commitments, such as those contained in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Summit on Sustainable Development call for the application of an ecosystem approach by 2010, and in this context encourages States to enhance their efforts towards applying such an approach;

(d) Encourages States to cooperate and coordinate their efforts and take, individually or jointly, as appropriate, all measures, in conformity with international law, including the Convention and other applicable instruments, to address impacts on marine ecosystems within and beyond areas of national jurisdiction, taking into account the integrity of the ecosystems concerned;

233. *Recalls* that, in "The future we want", States committed themselves to protect and restore the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, to maintain their biodiversity, enabling their conservation and sustainable use for present and future generations, and to effectively apply an ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach in the management, in accordance with international law, of activities having an impact on the marine environment, to deliver on all three dimensions of sustainable development;

[106] See United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex.

234. *Encourages* competent organizations and bodies that have not yet done so to incorporate an ecosystem approach into their mandates, as appropriate, in order to address impacts on marine ecosystems;

235. *Acknowledges* the request by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session, in paragraph 6 of its resolution 2/10, to the United Nations Environment Programme to step up its work, including through its Regional Seas Programme, on assisting countries and regions in the application of the ecosystem approach to managing the marine and coastal environment, including through enabling intersectoral cooperation in integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning;[10]

236. *Invites* States, in particular those States with advanced technology and marine capabilities, to explore prospects for improving cooperation with and assistance to developing States, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, with a view to better integrating into national policies and programmes sustainable and effective development in the marine sector;

237. *Notes* the information compiled by the Secretariat[107] in relation to the assistance available to and measures that may be taken by developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, to realize the benefits of sustainable and effective development of marine resources and uses of the oceans, as provided by States and competent international organizations and global and regional funding agencies, and urges them to provide information for the annual report of the Secretary-General and for incorporation on the website of the Division;

238. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009[108] to facilitate its entry into force;

239. *Encourages* continued cooperation between the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal[109] and the International Maritime Organization on regulations on the prevention of pollution from ships;

240. *Notes* the role of the Basel Convention in protecting the marine environment against the adverse effects which may result from such wastes;

241. *Notes with concern* the potential for serious environmental consequences resulting from oil spill incidents or pollution incidents involving hazardous or noxious substances, urges States, consistent with international law, to cooperate, directly or through competent international organizations, and share best practices, in the fields of protection of the marine environment, human health and safety, prevention, emergency response and mitigation, and in this regard encourages the undertaking of and collaboration on scientific research, including marine scientific research, to better understand the consequences of marine oil spills or marine spills involving hazardous or noxious substances;

242. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990,[110] and the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Cooperation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000, of

[107] A/63/342.
[108] International Maritime Organization, document SR/CONF/45.
[109] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1673, No. 28911.
[110] Ibid., vol. 1891, No. 32194.

the International Maritime Organization, and in this regard to consider developing and joining regional arrangements to enhance international cooperation for combating major oil and hazardous substances pollution incidents;

243. *Encourages* States to consider becoming parties to the 2010 Protocol to the 1996 International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea;[111]

X
Marine biodiversity

244. *Reaffirms* its central role relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction;

245. *Notes* the work and contributions of States and relevant intergovernmental organizations and bodies in the context of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction;

246. *Recalls*, in this regard, its resolution 69/292, entitled "Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction";

247. *Takes note* of the extensive and complex discussions and exchange of views at the four sessions of the Preparatory Committee established by resolution 69/292, which concluded on 21 July 2017, as well as of the report of the Preparatory Committee and the recommendations contained therein;[112]

248. *Recognizes* the abundance and diversity of marine genetic resources and their value in terms of the benefits, goods and services they can provide;

249. *Also recognizes* the importance of research on marine genetic resources for the purpose of enhancing the scientific understanding, potential use and application, and enhanced management of marine ecosystems;

250. *Encourages* States and international organizations, including through bilateral, regional and global cooperation programmes and partnerships, to continue in a sustainable and comprehensive way to support, promote and strengthen capacity-building activities, in particular in developing countries, in the field of marine scientific research, taking into account, in particular, the need to create greater taxonomic capabilities;

251. *Notes* the work under the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity[113] and the Convention on Biological Diversity elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity,[114] and, while reiterating the central role of the General Assembly relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, notes with appreciation the complementary technical and scientific work done by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

252. *Reaffirms* the need for States, individually or through competent international organizations, to urgently consider ways to integrate and improve, based on the best available scientific information and the precautionary approach and in

[111] International Maritime Organization, document LEG/CONF.17/10.
[112] A/AC.287/2017/PC.4/2.
[113] See A/51/312, annex II, decision II/10.
[114] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/7/21, annex, decision VII/5, annex I.

accordance with the Convention and related agreements and instruments, the management of risks to the marine biodiversity of seamounts, cold water corals, hydrothermal vents and certain other underwater features;

253. *Notes* the adoption by the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Cancun, Mexico, from 4 to 17 December 2016, of a voluntary specific workplan on biodiversity in cold water areas within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention,[125] and invites Parties to that Convention to implement the workplan;

254. *Calls upon* States and international organizations to urgently take further action to address, in accordance with international law, destructive practices that have adverse impacts on marine biodiversity and ecosystems, including seamounts, hydrothermal vents and cold water corals;

255. *Calls upon* States to strengthen, in a manner consistent with international law, in particular the Convention, the conservation and management of marine biodiversity and ecosystems, and national policies in relation to area-based management tools, including marine protected areas;

256. *Recalls* that, in "The future we want", States reaffirmed the importance of area-based conservation measures, including marine protected areas, consistent with international law and based on best available scientific information, as a tool for conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components, and noted decision X/2 of the tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, that by 2020, 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are to be conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures;[126]

257. *Encourages* States, in this regard, to further progress towards the establishment of marine protected areas, including representative networks, and calls upon States to further consider options to identify and protect ecologically or biologically significant areas, consistent with international law and on the basis of the best available scientific information;

258. *Invites* States to identify measures to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, enshrined in decision X/2 of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and takes note of the announcements made by some States in this regard;

259. *Reaffirms* the need for States to continue and intensify their efforts, directly and through competent international organizations, to develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools for conserving and managing vulnerable marine ecosystems, including the possible establishment of marine protected areas, consistent with international law, as reflected in the Convention, and based on the best scientific information available;

260. *Notes* the work of States, relevant intergovernmental organizations and bodies, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, in the assessment of scientific information on and compilation of ecological criteria for the identification of marine areas that may require protection, in the light of the objective of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools, such as ecosystem approaches and the establishment of marine

[125] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/25, sect. I, decision XIII/11, annex II.

protected areas consistent with international law, as reflected in the Convention, and based on scientific information, including representative networks;

261. *Recalls* that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its ninth meeting, adopted scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection in open-ocean waters and deep-sea habitats and scientific guidance for selecting areas to establish a representative network of marine protected areas, including in open-ocean waters and deep-sea habitats,[116] and notes the ongoing work under the Convention on Biological Diversity on the application of the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas through the organization of a series of regional workshops;

262. *Also recalls* that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has developed guidance for the identification of vulnerable marine ecosystems through the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas, and notes its ongoing work to support application of the Guidelines by States and to maintain a database of vulnerable marine ecosystems;

263. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and notes in this regard the global dialogue with regional seas organizations and regional fisheries bodies on accelerating progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, held in Seoul, from 26 to 29 September 2016;

264. *Notes* the ongoing work of the International Maritime Organization to identify and designate as Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas marine areas which are recognized for their significance in terms of ecological, socioeconomic or scientific criteria and are vulnerable to damage by international shipping activities;[117]

265. *Acknowledges* the Micronesia Challenge, the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape project, the Caribbean Challenge and the Coral Triangle Initiative, which, in particular, seek to create and link domestic marine protected areas to better facilitate ecosystem approaches, and reaffirms the need for further international cooperation, coordination and collaboration in support of such initiatives;

266. *Reiterates its support* for the International Coral Reef Initiative, notes that the next International Coral Reef Initiative General Meeting is scheduled to be held in Nairobi, from 7 to 9 December 2017, and supports the elaborated programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity on marine and coastal biological diversity related to coral reefs under the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity;

267. *Recalls* that, in "The future we want", States recognized the significant economic, social and environmental contributions of coral reefs, in particular to islands and other coastal States, as well as the significant vulnerability of coral reefs and mangroves to impacts, including from climate change, ocean acidification, overfishing, destructive fishing practices and pollution, and supported international cooperation with a view to conserving coral reef and mangrove ecosystems and realizing their social, economic and environmental benefits, as well as facilitating technical collaboration and voluntary information-sharing;

268. *Encourages* States and relevant international institutions to improve efforts to address coral bleaching by, inter alia, improving monitoring to predict and identify bleaching events, supporting and strengthening action taken during such

[116] United Nations Environment Programme, document UNEP/CBD/COP/9/29, annex I, decision IX/20, annexes I and II.

[117] International Maritime Organization, Revised Guidelines for the Identification and Designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas, Assembly resolution A.982(24).

events and improving strategies to manage reefs to support their natural resilience and enhance their ability to withstand other pressures, including ocean acidification, and in this regard also encourages States to implement the priority actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems, adopted by the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;[57]

269. *Encourages* States to cooperate, directly or through competent international bodies, in exchanging information in the event of accidents involving vessels on coral reefs and in promoting the development of economic assessment techniques for both restoration and non-use values of coral reef systems;

270. *Emphasizes* the need to mainstream sustainable coral reef management and integrated watershed management into national development strategies, as well as into the activities of relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, international financial institutions and the donor community;

271. *Notes* that ocean noise has potential significant adverse impacts on living marine resources, affirms the importance of sound scientific studies in addressing this matter, encourages further research, studies and consideration of the impacts of ocean noise on living marine resources, notes the work of States and competent international organizations in that regard, and requests the Division to continue to compile the peer-reviewed scientific studies it receives from Member States and intergovernmental organizations pursuant to paragraph 107 of resolution 61/222 and, as appropriate, to make them, or references and links to them, available on its website;

272. *Also notes* the approval by the International Maritime Organization of Guidelines for the Reduction of Underwater Noise from Commercial Shipping to Address Adverse Impacts on Marine Life, and invites the International Maritime Organization to promote and encourage their implementation for existing ships and new vessels, when appropriate, including by promoting measures that may reduce cavitation;[118]

273. *Encourages* further research into technologies to reduce the impact of underwater noise on marine life;

XI
Marine science

274. *Calls upon* States, individually or in collaboration with each other or with competent international organizations and bodies, to continue to strive to improve understanding and knowledge of the oceans and the deep sea, including, in particular, the extent and vulnerability of deep sea biodiversity and ecosystems, by increasing their marine scientific research activities in accordance with the Convention;

275. *Encourages*, in that regard, relevant international organizations and other donors to consider supporting the Endowment Fund of the International Seabed Authority in order to promote the conduct of collaborative marine scientific research in the international seabed area by supporting the participation of qualified scientists and technical personnel from developing countries in relevant programmes, initiatives and activities;

276. *Notes with concern* that human-related threats, such as marine debris, ship strikes, underwater noise, persistent contaminants, coastal development activities, oil spills and discarded fishing gear, together may severely impact marine life, including its higher trophic levels, and calls upon States and competent international organizations to cooperate and coordinate their research efforts in this regard so as to

[118] International Maritime Organization, document MEPC.1/Circ.833, annex.

reduce these impacts and preserve the integrity of the whole marine ecosystem, while fully respecting the mandates of relevant international organizations;

277. *Welcomes* the programme entitled "Promote and facilitate the conduct of marine scientific research under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea" of the Division and the Korea Maritime Institute, carried out in cooperation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission with the aim of assisting developing countries, especially small island developing States, to build their capacities in the field of marine scientific research, and notes with appreciation that the second course under the programme was developed with the cooperation of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and delivered in Castries, from 2 to 5 May 2017;

278. *Invites* all relevant organizations, funds, programmes and bodies within the United Nations system, in consultation with interested States, to coordinate relevant activities with regional and national marine scientific and technological centres in small island developing States, as appropriate, to ensure the more effective achievement of their objectives in accordance with relevant United Nations small island developing States development programmes and strategies;

279. *Welcomes* the resolution adopted by the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission at its twenty-eighth session, held in Paris from 18 to 25 June 2015, regarding the adoption of the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition as an important catalyst project linking Indian Ocean processes to the global ocean and atmosphere, officially launched in Goa, India, on 4 December 2015 for an initial period of five years, invites States to participate in this initiative, and notes that two nodes of the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition Joint Project Office have been established to coordinate operations of the expedition in Perth, Australia, and Hyderabad, India;

280. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, with the advice of the Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea, on the development of procedures for the implementation of Parts XIII and XIV of the Convention;

281. *Also notes with appreciation* the work of the Advisory Body of Experts, including its work in cooperation with the Division, on the practice of member States related to marine scientific research and transfer of marine technology within the framework of the Convention, and welcomes the decision of the Executive Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission at its forty-fifth session, held in Paris from 26 to 28 June 2012, that the Advisory Body will continue its work focused on priorities as tasked by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission governing bodies in line with the terms of reference, mobilizing extrabudgetary resources when necessary;

282. *Recalls* the issuance of the revised publication entitled *Marine Scientific Research: A guide to the implementation of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* in December 2010, and requests the Secretariat to continue to make efforts to publish the guide in all official languages of the United Nations;

283. *Notes* that the depth of a significant percentage of the world's oceans, seas and waterways has yet to be measured directly and that bathymetric knowledge underpins the safe, sustainable and cost-effective execution of almost every human activity in, on or under the sea;

284. *Welcomes* the work of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans project under the International Hydrographic Organization and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and, in particular, the outcome of the Forum for Future

Ocean Floor Mapping, held in June 2016 in Monaco, and the subsequent development by the Guiding Committee of the Seabed 2030 project for improving bathymetry globally;

285. *Encourages* Member States to consider contributing to mechanisms that encourage the widest possible availability of all bathymetric data, so as to support the sustainable development, management and governance of the marine environment;

286. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution to marine biodiversity research of the Ocean Biogeographic Information System, a free and open-access data holding and sharing facility, hosted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission;

287. *Welcomes* the increasing attention being focused on oceans as a potential source of renewable energy, and notes in this regard the summary of discussions of the Informal Consultative Process at its thirteenth meeting;[119]

288. *Stresses* the importance of increasing the scientific understanding of the oceans-atmosphere interface, including through participation in ocean observing programmes and geographic information systems, such as the Global Ocean Observing System, sponsored by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Council for Science, particularly considering their role in monitoring and forecasting climate change and variability and in the establishment and operation of tsunami warning systems;

289. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and Member States towards the establishment and operation of regional and national tsunami warning and mitigation systems, also welcomes the continued collaboration of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations in this effort, further welcomes the development and recent dissemination of the new Enhanced Tsunami Products for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System and the development of Enhanced Tsunami Products for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions, which will assist countries in the Pacific and the Caribbean to assess tsunami threats and issue warnings, and encourages Member States to establish and sustain their national warning and mitigation systems, within a global, ocean-related multi-hazard approach, as necessary, to reduce loss of life and damage to national economies and strengthen the resilience of coastal communities to natural disasters;

290. *Stresses* the need for continued efforts in developing mitigation and preparedness measures for natural disasters, particularly following tsunami events caused by earthquakes, such as the 11 March 2011 event in Japan;

291. *Urges* States to take necessary action and to cooperate in relevant organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the World Meteorological Organization, to address damage to ocean data buoys deployed and operated in accordance with international law, including through education and outreach about the importance and purpose of these buoys and by strengthening these buoys against such damage and increasing reporting of such damage;

292. *Decides* to proclaim the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development for the 10-year period beginning on 1 January 2021, within existing structures and available resources, and calls upon the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission to prepare an implementation plan for the Decade in consultation with Member States, specialized agencies, funds, programmes and

[119] A/67/120.

bodies of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and relevant stakeholders;

293. *Requests* that the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission provide information on the development of the implementation plan and regularly consult with, and report to, Member States on the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science and its implementation;

294. *Invites* the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly on the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science through his report on oceans and the law of the sea, on the basis of information to be provided by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission;

295. *Invites* UN-Oceans and its participants to collaborate with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission on the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science;

XII
Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

296. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the regular scientific assessment of the state of the marine environment in order to enhance the scientific basis for policymaking;

297. *Reaffirms* the principles guiding the Regular Process and its objective and scope as agreed upon at the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in 2009;

298. *Recalls* that the Regular Process, as established under the United Nations, is accountable to the General Assembly and is an intergovernmental process guided by international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other applicable international instruments, and takes into account relevant Assembly resolutions;

299. *Reaffirms* the importance of the first World Ocean Assessment as the outcome of the first cycle of the Regular Process;

300. *Notes with concern* the findings of the first World Ocean Assessment that the world's ocean is facing major pressures simultaneously with such great impacts that the limits of its carrying capacity are being, or, in some cases, have been reached, and that delays in implementing solutions to the problems that have already been identified as threatening to degrade the world's ocean will lead, unnecessarily, to incurring greater environmental, social and economic cost;

301. *Recalls* the importance of making Governments, United Nations system organizations, bodies, funds and programmes, intergovernmental organizations, the scientific community and the general public aware of the first World Ocean Assessment and the Regular Process, and recognizes with appreciation the activities undertaken in this regard during various intergovernmental meetings, including the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, in particular those of the secretariat of the Regular Process;

302. *Also recalls* that, in the first cycle, the scope of the Regular Process focused on establishing a baseline, and decides that the scope of the second cycle will extend to evaluating trends and identifying gaps;

303. *Welcomes* the holding of the eighth and ninth meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, on 17 and 18 April 2017 and from 6 to 8 September 2017, respectively, in accordance with paragraph 317 of resolution 71/257;

304. *Takes note* of the recommendations and guidance adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole at its eighth meeting, and endorses the recommendations adopted by the Working Group at its ninth meeting;[4]

305. *Takes note with appreciation* of the technical abstracts of the first World Ocean Assessment on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction; the ocean and the Sustainable Development Goals under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and the impacts of climate change and related changes in the atmosphere on the oceans, prepared in accordance with the programme of work for the period 2017–2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process;

306. *Notes with appreciation* that advance unedited copies of the technical abstracts were made available to the Preparatory Committee established by resolution 69/292, the eighteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process and the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14;

307. *Recognizes with appreciation* the work of the members of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process with respect to the preparation of the technical abstracts, as well as the contribution of a number of members from the writing teams of the Pool of Experts of the first cycle of the Regular Process, in accordance with paragraph 309 of resolution 71/257, to this exercise;

308. *Recalls* that the Regular Process shall be overseen and guided by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, and decides that the Ad Hoc Working Group shall facilitate the delivery of the outputs of the second cycle as outlined in the programme of work for the period 2017–2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process;

309. *Recognizes with appreciation* the important role of the Co-Chairs and the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in providing guidance during the intersessional periods, including in operationalizing the second cycle of the Regular Process;

310. *Requests* the Bureau to continue to implement the decisions and guidance of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole during the intersessional period, including by providing oversight of the delivery of the programme of work for the period 2017–2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process;

311. *Notes* the endorsement by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of the terms of reference and working methods of the Group of Experts for the second cycle of the Regular Process, prepared in accordance with paragraph 310 of resolution 71/257;[120]

312. *Takes note* of the mechanism for the establishment of the Pool of Experts for the second cycle of the Regular Process[121] developed by the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in accordance with paragraph 311 of resolution 71/257, and encourages the appointment of experts to the Pool of Experts in accordance with the mechanism;

313. *Welcomes* the expressions of interest of individuals who served in the Pool of Experts during the first cycle of the Regular Process to serve in the Pool of Experts for the second cycle;

[120] A/72/89, annex.
[121] A/72/494, annex I.

314. *Takes note* of the terms of reference for national focal points developed by the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole;[122]

315. *Welcomes* the designation by States of national focal points pursuant to paragraph 312 of resolution 71/257, and urges States that have not yet done so to designate their national focal points as soon as possible;

316. *Urges* regional groups that have not yet done so to appoint experts to the Group of Experts in accordance with paragraph 287 of resolution 70/235, taking into account the need to ensure geographical distribution and adequate expertise in socioeconomic disciplines;

317. *Notes* the adoption by the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of guidelines to assist the first round of workshops of the second cycle of the Regular Process,[123] finalized by the Group of Experts in consultation with the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group and the secretariat of the Regular Process;

318. *Welcomes* the holding of the workshops in support of the Regular Process in Lisbon in September 2017, in Auckland, New Zealand, in October 2017, in Camboriú, Brazil, in November 2017, in Bangkok in November 2017 and in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania, in December 2017;

319. *Notes* the elements for discussion on the shape and structure of the assessment or assessments to be carried out in the second cycle of the Regular Process prepared by the Group of Experts, in accordance with the programme of work, and decides that, in the elaboration of an outline, the Group of Experts should proceed on the basis of the preparation of a single comprehensive assessment;

320. *Recalls* the crucial importance of the Regular Process for ongoing ocean-related intergovernmental processes and its possible inputs, including for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the development of an international legally binding instrument, under the Convention, on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Informal Consultative Process, as outlined in the programme of work for the period 2017–2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process;

321. *Also recalls* the importance of ensuring that assessments, such as those included in the Global Sustainable Development Report and those prepared under the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Regular Process, support one another and avoid unnecessary duplication, and also recalls the importance of compatibility and synergies between such assessments and assessments at the regional level;

322. *Requests* intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide information on recent and ongoing assessments and other processes at the regional and global levels relevant to the Regular Process in order for the secretariat to update the inventory of recent and ongoing assessments and other processes at the regional and global levels relevant to the Regular Process;

323. *Takes note* of the guidance for contributors, part I, prepared by the Group of Experts pursuant to paragraph 310 of resolution 71/257;[124]

324. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work undertaken thus far by the secretariat in compiling a capacity-building inventory of needs and opportunities

[122] Ibid., annex II.
[123] Ibid., annex III.
[124] See A/72/494, annex IV.

relevant for the Regular Process, in accordance with the programme of work, based on information contributed by relevant United Nations system organizations, bodies, funds and programmes and by relevant intergovernmental organizations;

325. *Invites* States and non-governmental organizations, as well as intergovernmental organizations that have not already done so, to provide relevant information for inclusion in the capacity-building inventory of needs and opportunities relevant for the Regular Process being compiled and maintained by the secretariat;

326. *Recalls its invitation*, in paragraph 313 of resolution 71/257, to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Maritime Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Meteorological Organization and relevant United Nations system organizations, bodies, funds and programmes, as appropriate, to assist in the implementation of the second cycle of the Regular Process with regard to the following activities: awareness-raising, the identification of experts for the Pool of Experts, technical and scientific support for the Bureau and the Group of Experts, hosting workshops and meetings of the writing teams, capacity-building and the scoping process for the assessment;

327. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission at its twenty-ninth session, from 21 to 29 June 2017, of decision IOC-XXIX/8.2, in particular regarding the provision of technical and scientific support to the second cycle of the Regular Process in accordance with the guidance of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole;

328. *Recalls its invitation*, in paragraph 314 of resolution 71/257, to relevant intergovernmental organizations to contribute, as appropriate, to the activities of the second cycle;

329. *Urges* States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make financial contributions to the voluntary trust fund[125] and to make other contributions to the Regular Process;

330. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene, in 2018, two meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of no more than four days total duration, the tenth meeting on 28 February and 1 March 2018 to approve the outline of the assessment, and the eleventh meeting on 23 and 24 August 2018, with a view to providing recommendations to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the preparation of the assessment to be carried out in the second cycle and on the implementation of the second cycle, and encourages the widest possible attendance of participants in the Ad Hoc Working Group;

XIII
Regional cooperation

331. *Notes with appreciation* efforts and initiatives at the regional level, in various regions, to further the implementation of the Convention and to respond, including through capacity-building, to issues related to maritime safety and security, the conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources, the protection and preservation of the marine environment and the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity;

[125] See resolution 69/245, para. 278.

332. *Invites* States and international organizations to enhance their cooperation to better protect the marine environment;

333. *Notes* the Caribbean-focused Assistance Fund, which is intended to facilitate, mainly through technical assistance, the voluntary undertaking of maritime delimitation negotiations between Caribbean States, notes once again the Fund for Peace: Peaceful Settlement of Territorial Disputes, established by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in 2000 as a primary mechanism, given its broader regional scope, for the prevention and resolution of pending territorial, land border and maritime boundary disputes, and calls upon States and others in a position to do so to contribute to these funds;

334. *Welcomes* the adoption of the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway[126] and the new modalities set forth for strengthened action on a range of small island developing States challenges and priorities, including challenges related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, and the preservation of the marine environment, and reaffirms its commitment to work with small island developing States towards full implementation of the Samoa Pathway to ensure its success;

335. *Recognizes* the results of the International Polar Year, 2007–2008 with particular emphasis on new knowledge about the linkages between environmental change in the polar regions and global climate systems, and encourages States and scientific communities to strengthen their cooperation in this respect;

336. *Acknowledges* the important contributions to scientific understanding of the marine environment and its resources, as well as the scientific advice for their sustainable use, provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea in its wide-ranging cooperation with organizations at the regional level under the Convention for the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, 1964;[127]

337. *Welcomes* regional cooperation, and in this regard notes the Pacific Oceanscape Framework as an initiative to enhance cooperation among coastal States in the Pacific island region to foster marine conservation and sustainable development;

338. *Notes with appreciation* the various cooperative efforts displayed by States at the regional and subregional levels, and in this regard welcomes initiatives, such as the Integrated Assessment and Management of the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem;

339. *Acknowledges* relevant cooperation among the members of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic;

340. *Recalls* the decision of the Assembly of the African Union in January 2015 to adopt Agenda 2063, also recalls that the African Union launched the Decade of African Seas and Oceans (2015–2025), and notes that the African Day of the Seas and Oceans is to be celebrated annually on 25 July;

341. *Notes* the adoption of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 by the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014,[128] following the comprehensive 10-year review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs

[126] Resolution 69/15, annex.
[127] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 652, No. 9344.
[128] Resolution 69/137, annex II.

of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[129] and also notes the need for cooperation to address the development needs and challenges faced by landlocked developing countries associated with, inter alia, their lack of direct territorial access to the sea, remoteness and isolation from world markets, in line with the objectives of the Vienna Programme of Action;

342. *Also notes* the efforts of the Sargasso Sea Commission, led by the Government of Bermuda, to raise awareness of the ecological significance of the Sargasso Sea;

343. *Further notes* the adoption of the Arctic Council Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation;

344. *Notes* the cooperation between the OSPAR Commission established by the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic and the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission;

XIV
Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

345. *Welcomes* the report of the Co-Chairs on the work of the Informal Consultative Process at its eighteenth meeting, which focused on the theme of the effects of climate change on oceans;[4]

346. *Recognizes* the role of the Informal Consultative Process as a unique forum for comprehensive discussions on issues related to oceans and the law of the sea, consistent with the framework provided by the Convention and chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[7] and that the perspective of the three pillars of sustainable development should be further enhanced in the examination of the selected topics;

347. *Welcomes* the work of the Informal Consultative Process and its contribution to improving coordination and cooperation between States and strengthening the annual debate of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea by effectively drawing attention to key issues and current trends;

348. *Also welcomes* efforts to improve and focus the work of the Informal Consultative Process, and in that respect recognizes the primary role of the Informal Consultative Process in integrating knowledge, the exchange of opinions among multiple stakeholders and coordination among competent agencies, and enhancing awareness of topics, including emerging issues, while promoting the three pillars of sustainable development, and recommends that the Informal Consultative Process devise a transparent, objective and inclusive process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly during informal consultations concerning the annual resolution on oceans and the law of the sea;

349. *Recalls* the need to strengthen and improve the efficiency of the Informal Consultative Process, and encourages States, intergovernmental organizations and programmes to provide guidance to the Co-Chairs to this effect, particularly before and during the preparatory meeting for the Informal Consultative Process;

350. *Also recalls* that a further review of the effectiveness and utility of the Informal Consultative Process will be undertaken by the General Assembly at its seventy-third session;

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[129] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

351. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 54/33, the nineteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, in New York from 18 to 22 June 2018, to provide it with the facilities necessary for the performance of its work, including documentation, and to arrange for support to be provided by the Division, in cooperation with other relevant parts of the Secretariat, as appropriate;

352. *Expresses its continued serious concern* regarding the lack of resources available in the voluntary trust fund established pursuant to resolution 55/7 for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States, in attending the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process, and urges States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make additional contributions to the trust fund;

353. *Decides* that those representatives from developing countries who are invited by the Co-Chairs, in consultation with Governments, to make presentations during the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process shall receive priority consideration in the disbursement of funds from the voluntary trust fund established pursuant to resolution 55/7 in order to cover the costs of their travel, and shall also be eligible to receive daily subsistence allowance subject to the availability of funds after the travel costs of all other eligible representatives from those countries mentioned in paragraph 352 above have been covered;

354. *Recalls* its decision that, in its deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, the Informal Consultative Process shall focus its discussions at its nineteenth meeting, in 2018, on the theme "Anthropogenic underwater noise";

XV
Coordination and cooperation

355. *Encourages* States to work closely with and through international organizations, funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and relevant international conventions, to identify emerging areas of focus for improved coordination and cooperation and how best to address these issues;

356. *Expresses its concern* at the desecration of graves at sea and the looting of wrecks of ships constituting such graves, and calls upon States to cooperate, as appropriate, to prevent the looting and desecration of wrecks of ships constituting graves in order to ensure that proper respect is given to all human remains located in maritime waters, consistent with international law, including, as appropriate, the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, among parties thereto;

357. *Encourages* bodies established by the Convention to strengthen coordination and cooperation, as appropriate, in fulfilling their respective mandates;

358. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of heads of intergovernmental organizations, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations engaged in activities relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, as well as funding institutions, and underlines the importance of their constructive and timely input for the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea and of their participation in relevant meetings and processes;

359. *Welcomes* the work done by the secretariats of relevant United Nations specialized agencies, programmes, funds and bodies and the secretariats of related organizations and conventions to enhance inter-agency coordination and cooperation on ocean issues, including, where appropriate, through UN-Oceans, the inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the United Nations system;

360. *Recognizes* the work undertaken by UN-Oceans, in particular the inventory of mandates, under the revised terms of reference for the work of UN-Oceans, and with the United Nations Legal Counsel/Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea as the focal point of UN-Oceans, and, as an interim measure, in this regard invites States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make financial earmarked contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General for the Office of Legal Affairs to support the promotion of international law, and authorizes the Secretary-General to disburse funds from such contributions to that trust fund for the purposes of the maintenance of an online searchable database for an inventory of the mandates of UN-Oceans members and priorities approved by the respective governing bodies of the participating organizations of UN-Oceans, with a view to identifying possible areas of collaboration and synergy, as well as for travel associated with the performance of the functions of the focal point;

361. *Decides* to defer the review of the terms of reference for the work of UN-Oceans until its seventy-third session;

XVI
Activities of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

362. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the annual report on oceans and the law of the sea, prepared by the Division, as well as for the other activities of the Division, which reflect the high standard of assistance provided to Member States by the Division;

363. *Notes with satisfaction* the ninth observance by the United Nations of World Oceans Day in 2017,[130] recognizes with appreciation the efforts deployed by the Division in organizing its celebration in the context of the commemorative event held during the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, and invites the Division to continue to promote and facilitate international cooperation on the law of the sea and ocean affairs in the context of the future observance of World Oceans Day, as well as through its participation in other events;

364. *Recalls* the responsibilities and functions entrusted to the Secretary-General in the Convention and in the related resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolutions 49/28 and 52/26, notes the increased number of requests to the Division for additional outputs and servicing of meetings and in relation to the support to be provided by the Division as secretariat of the Regular Process during the second cycle of the Regular Process, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the allocation of appropriate resources to the Division for the performance of its activities under the approved budget for the Organization;

365. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the publication activities of the Division, in particular through the publication of *The Law of the Sea: A Select Bibliography* and the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*;

[130] By its resolution 63/111, the General Assembly designated 8 June as World Oceans Day.

XVII
Seventy-third session of the General Assembly

366. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report for consideration by the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including the implementation of the present resolution, in accordance with resolutions 49/28, 52/26 and 54/33, and to prepare a separate report on the topic that is the focus of the nineteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process;

367. *Emphasizes* the critical role of the annual report of the Secretary-General, which integrates information on developments relating to the implementation of the Convention and the work of the Organization, its specialized agencies and other institutions in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea at the global and regional levels, and as a result constitutes the basis for the annual consideration and review of developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea by the General Assembly as the global institution having the competence to undertake such a review;

368. *Notes* that the reports referred to in paragraph 366 above will also be submitted to States Parties pursuant to article 319 of the Convention regarding issues of a general nature that have arisen with respect to the Convention;

369. *Also notes* the desire to further improve the efficiency of and effective participation of delegations in the informal consultations concerning the annual General Assembly resolution on oceans and the law of the sea, decides that the period of the informal consultations on that resolution should not exceed a maximum of two weeks in total and that the consultations should be scheduled in such a way that the Division has sufficient time to produce the report referred to in paragraph 366 above, requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide support to the consultations through the Division, and invites States to submit text proposals for inclusion in the resolution to the Coordinator of the informal consultations at the earliest possible date;

370. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea".

64th plenary meeting
5 December 2017